

Ness News

Community News & Events

June 2026



Railway Update



Heritage and Gaelic



Signs of Spring





Apologies for the delay in producing this issue. I had a fantastic time in Canada but unfortunately have been under the weather since returning and am now feeling the effect of staying up until 4.30 am to watch Scotland's first win in this World Cup.

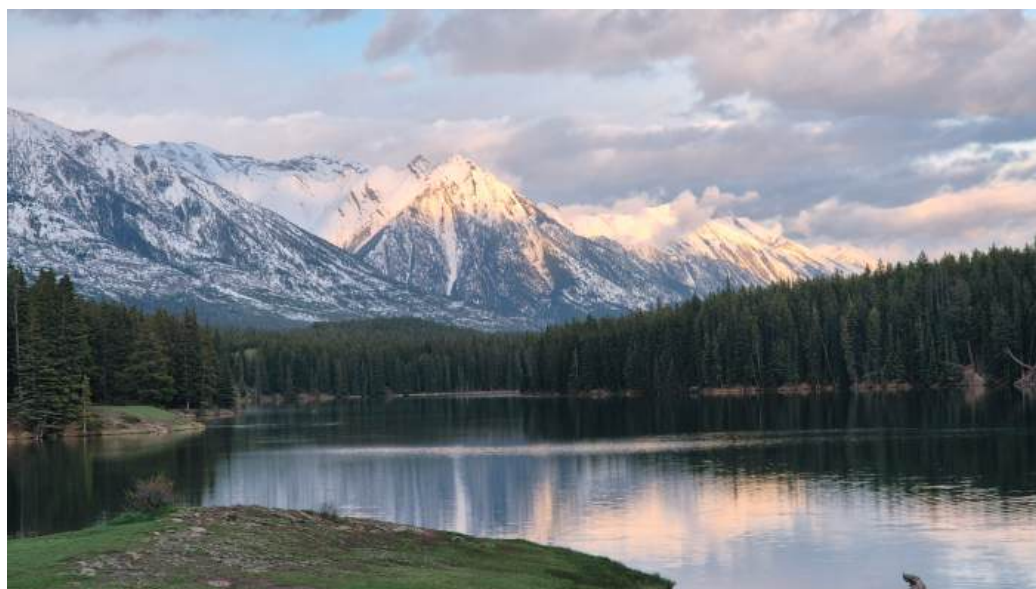
The Community Council held its AGM at the end of May. However, like the Senior Citizens Association and the 3 Glens Community Care, public attendance was very poor. This may be due to a misconception that people attending meetings will be pressured into joining committees, which is certainly not the case.

These organisations, along with many others in our community, would simply like to see greater local support, particularly from those who benefit from the services, activities and projects they provide. Attending meetings is a valuable way of keeping informed, sharing views and showing support for the volunteers who work hard on behalf of the community.

I would also like to remind all residents aged 60 and over that the Beinneun Community Fund continues to fund the monthly Highland Cinema trip for the foreseeable future. Transport, the film and lunch are all provided free of charge on the first Wednesday of each month. However, due to scheduling changes, the July trip has been brought forward to Tuesday, 23 June. The film will be either Toy Story 5 or The Fall of Sir Douglas Weatherford. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lesley Hill for Glenmoriston, or me for Fort Augustus and Glengarry.

Finally, the Community Council sends its deepest condolences to Anne Douglas and her family on the sad passing of Matthew. Matthew served as a Community Councillor for many years and made a valued contribution to our community. He will be greatly missed.

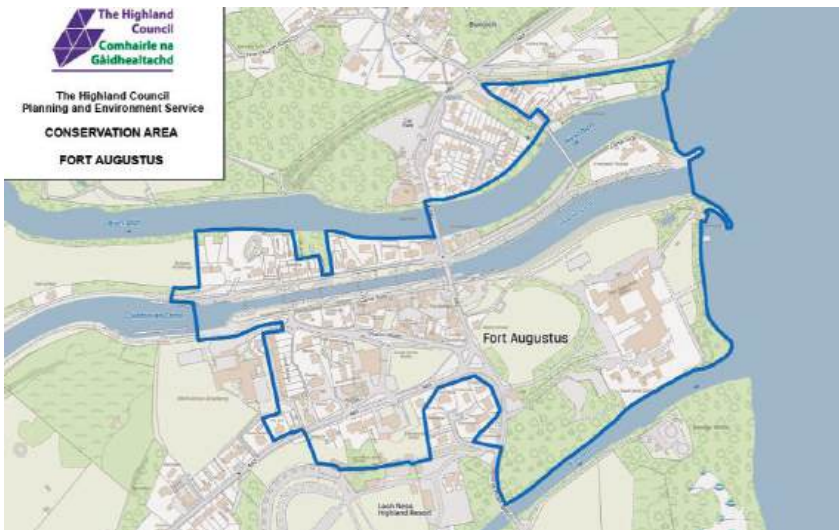
Deirdre



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Councillor Update

Fort Augustus is one of only two conservation areas within the Aird & loch Ness Ward, the other is Beaulieu Square. The Conservation area was in 1990 and is shown on the map below



Conservation areas have been selected for their special architectural or historic interest, I think Fort Augustus meets both these criteria and it is no surprise thousands of visitors are attracted to the village. The purpose of the conservation area is to protect and improve the character and appearance of the area for future generations.

What this means for you

If you live or work in a conservation area, there are extra planning rules. These help protect the area's unique features.

You may need permission before making changes to a building. This includes:

1. altering the outside of a building including shopfronts and windows
2. putting up signs or advertisements
3. removing trees or hedges

More information on the rules that apply to the conservation area are available at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/listed-buildings-heritage/conservation-areas>

Conservation areas

In this section

4. You are here: Planning in Conservation Areas
5. Maintain your traditional building
6. Areas where permitted development rights have been removed

Planning in Conservation Areas

Conservation areas are places with special architectural or historic interest.

The Hub Dalchreichart

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



"Summer brings a little more light into every day"

What's On At The Hub?

Our regular coffee mornings will run as usual on the last Saturday of every month from 11am to 1pm. **Upcoming dates: 27th June, 25th July. NB: Coffee morning in August will be on Sunday, 30th August as we are planning to combine it with our BBQ special (tbc).**

Keyboard Club

Fortnightly on **Monday mornings** at **10:30am**. A relaxed, friendly session to learn/improve keyboard skills. **Next session will be on 29th June.**

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: 18th June, 16th July and 20th August.**

BBQ special - August Bank Holiday, Sunday 30th

We hope to be able to put on a summer barbeque which has proved popular in previous years. More information will be available through our social media pages and we will keep you updated.

Games Night

We held a fun and sociable games evening on the 9th of May. Air Hockey, Pool, Darts, Table Tennis and Board Games were available to play though some people chose to spectate and watch the hilarity unfold! Unfortunately, we are not able to hold the next session in June as we had planned but it will be back on the menu later in the year and we will advertise it through our social media channels.

Borrow a Book – or Donate One

Our small library is available during all events. Bring books to share and pick from our selection on offer. We also have several jigsaw puzzles for people to borrow and return when finished. We could really use a volunteer to put it in order and help us run it more effectively. If you have a few hours to spare and could do this, please get in touch!



Coming up later in the year – not to be missed!

Oktoberfest – 24th October

This year catering will be provided by Rowan Café, burgers to die for! Always a good evening, look out for further details in the next Ness News and on our Facebook pages.

Call for volunteers:

We are still 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**
- Facebook: **Glenmoriston Community**
- 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.

West Glenmoriston Community Company **thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com**

Shinty Update



Our season is underway and we are currently sitting at third in MOWI North Division 1 with our own Nick Dalgety as top scorer.

Our first game of the Chieftain Cup, which happens to be the quarter final, takes place on Saturday 23rd May at Craigard shinty pitch against Ardnamurchan, who are MOWI South Division 1 leaders.

Steven "DD" Cameron, a stalwart of the club has been announced as the 2026 manager for the men's team.

Our fundraising darts and pool night, organised by Ken Henderson, took place on Saturday 18th April in the British Legion, many thanks to them for hosting. A grand total of £1289 was raised on the night and will go towards the running costs of the club.

Winner darts – James Henderson

Runner up – Scott Bremner

Winner pool – Barry Wright

Runner up – James Henderson

Our maintenance team have been hard at work, not just cutting and strimming the outer grass area but painting doors and fascia boards, repairing lights, installing bollards to prevent vehicles driving over the new drainage system, anchoring the dugouts, installing noticeboards. Many thanks to Douglas, Stephen and Steve.

Saturday 4th July is the Glengarry Highland Games where we will have our kitchen open selling food and drinks. We will also be selling shinty themed keyrings, merchandise and have a tombola so why not come along and support the club.

The club sells a variety of merchandise from babies to adults, from t-shirts to caps, from new to second hand. Contact the secretary at secretary.glengarry@outlook.com if you are interested.

Race For Life



Ella Sales and Molly Nisbet participated in Race for Life and raised £1855 with an additional £341.75 of Gift Aid for Cancer Research UK.

'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: handyman 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 18th May 2026.

Volunteer drivers for driving services including our Community Minibus and Befriending Taxi services are always needed. Volunteer handyman 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

Facebook:

3 Glens Community Care

Chair - 3 Glens CC

Denise Paterson
chair@3glenscare.org



Signs of Spring

Glengarry Community Development Trust | Spring 2026

I think you will agree, it's been a proper Scottish spring, with sunshine one day, hail the next and even snow over the Easter weekend. Up in the forest, among the blaeberry bushes, small birch and rowan saplings are coming through, especially evident in the clearing around the cabins.

We are celebrating our tenth year of community ownership of the woodland this year. A great deal has happened over that time, including our name change to Glengarry Community Development Trust. Our aims remain the same, while plans that have been developing over the years are starting to mature.

The Cabins

Glengarry Forest Cabins are close to opening. By the time you read this, Sandy MacRae of Fort Augustus will have completed the final landscaping and drainage works around the site. Sandy has worked with us from the very beginning, doing the heavy lifting and some serious groundwork. His last visit is a sure sign we are nearly there.

Sandy was able to get started once Simon Dakin and his team from BlueGreen Conservation had finished clearing the trees brought down by the winter storms. The site is steep and rocky, so Simon's team work with winches rather than heavy machinery, which keeps the forest floor in good shape and allows the native woodland to regenerate. The timber is destined for our sawmill, and guests will use the off-cuts as fuel in the cabin wood burners.

Behind the scenes, a great deal of work is going into the practicalities of running the accommodation.

We know the community is very keen to see the site first-hand. Once our staff and the business have had time to find their feet, we will have an official launch day later in the year and invite everyone to come and celebrate the opening properly.

In the meantime, please do follow our Glengarry Forest Cabins accounts on Facebook and Instagram, as well as the Trust accounts. If you have not already signed up for our newsletter, you can do so at glengarry.org.uk. That is the best way to hear about our latest progress and that all-important opening date.

For our new cabin accounts in particular, your follows, likes, and shares will help us spread the word about the business.

Instagram | Facebook | Pinterest — search **Glengarry Forest Cabins**

The Community Action Plan

Glengarry's first-ever Community Action Plan was completed in December 2025, shaped by more than a year of community engagement, including surveys, drop-in events and workshops. It covers housing, local jobs, social connection, the environment, cultural heritage and opportunities for young people.

Since it was published, the Trust has received community benefit funding from Koehler Renewable Energy UK, generated by three local hydropower projects, as well as a further year of support through the Strengthening Communities Programme, backed by

Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Government. Both came directly in response to having the plan in place.

If you have not read it yet, it is available to download on our website, or you can request a printed copy from the office.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our team member Garry Whyte, who has completed a five-week forestry course at the Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness, funded through Future Woodlands Scotland. Alongside this, Garry is taking part in a twelve-month Modern Apprenticeship funded by the Glengarry Trust.

The apprenticeship scheme is administered by the Glengarry Trust, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, and Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust, with more information available from each organisation. They welcome inquiries from individuals and organisations who would like to learn more about the scheme.

For us, the support from the Glengarry Trust means we can properly host an apprentice, and for Garry, his skills will be put to good use managing the woodland here

Green Fingers

The newly formed Glengarry Community Gardens group has been busy, putting in raised beds at the Old Forestry Depot using timber from our woodland. They also have a garden area at the Glengarry Community Hall. They are a welcoming group, and you will find them on Facebook if you would like to get involved or find out more.

Glengarry Community Development Trust, The Old Forestry Depot, Invergarry, PH35 4HG

woodlands@glengarry.org.uk
glengarry.org.uk | glengarryforestcabins.com

Image - Left to right, the four Community Woodland Trainees: Simon (Abriachan), Phil (Aigas), Garry (Glengarry) and Rafal (Inverness).

Image; Claire Glaister FICFor



Railway Update

Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Museum

We're please to announce the Grant money is now available from The Beinneun Community Fund. This will enable us to complete the workshop floor, and electric supply within the building. We have already taken delivery of 170 tonnes of ballast for track work and the workshop flooring preparation. This will make visits to the site much easier underfoot and our Open Days more welcoming for all.

The rail has been extended across the station access bridge and the first train to pass over the bridge in 80 years was on May 16th! We were pleased to receive a donation of rail from the Aluminium works at Fort William which arrived on site this week. This will be put to good use extending the rail to the west towards Laggan. As you can imagine, this has given a great boost to the enthusiasm of the team and spurred us on to continue track laying.

The purchase of the site on a Community Asset Transfer scheme is in progress between Forestry Land Scotland and ourselves and we look forward to this being completed in the near future.

Our next Open Day will feature a Teddy Bears Picnic with children's games and lots of fun. Give teddy a treat and take him for a ride on the miniature steam train. This will be in late August. So look out your teddy bears and watch out for the date.



Announcements

Births



Daniel MacLennan and Tessa Lopas welcomed Roén Catherine MacLennan born on the 13th May 2026 at 2.42pm New Zealand time. Weighing 8lb 4oz.



Duncan and Holly welcomed Fern Greer, born 4th June 2026, weighing 9lb 12oz. Little sister for Harris.



Bethany Lumsden and Angus Cameron welcomed Cuan Donald Cameron Born in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on May 19th at 2:55am, weighing 8lbs 12oz.

Christenings



The christening of Ophelia Parker MacKenzie took place on Sunday, 7th June 2026 at Fort Augustus Church of Scotland.

Weddings



Steven Shaw and Paige McCluskey married on Saturday 6th June 2026 at Daviot Steading.

Deaths



DEBORAH JANE ALLAN
19.04.1966 - 31.03.2026

Peacefully on Tuesday 31st March 2026 at the Highland Hospice, Debbie Allan, Periwinkle, Fort Augustus, aged 59 years. Former owner of D J MacDougall Butchers and latterly gift shop assistant. Ever loving wife to Geoff, most loving mother to Jack and lovely Rachel, loving sister to Nicola and Colin and beloved daughter of Betty, a special and dear friend to many.



Margaret Kennedy

22 December 1927 – 17 May 2026

Margaret was born to Elizabeth and Duncan Cameron at Fassifern in the Parish of Kilmallie on 22 December 1927. She had an older sister, Mary, and a younger sister Christina, known as Tot.

Her first school was at Laggan. The family moved to Leac Farm at Aberchalder where she went to Newton School.

When she was a teenager, she worked for the Ellises at Aberchalder Lodge during the second World War. She recalled making sandwiches for the troops on D-Day.

Along with her sisters, she used to walk from Leac Farm to Invergarry Hall to play badminton and whist, and to go to the dances there.

Margaret and Angie were married in Fort Augustus Church on 7 June 1952.

They lived at Cullochy Farm, and she would cycle along the canal bank to work in Leslie's shop in Fort Augustus.

It was a tough life, with no electricity or running water. She had to source water from the canal in a bucket, which was no easy task, especially in the winter, as the bank was on a slope. Being on a croft, there were always things to do.

They went on to have two daughters, Elizabeth and Sheila, and moved to Cullochy Locks.

Around 1967, they moved to Lundie View, where the Jaggy Thistle is now.

Then they built the house in Fort Augustus around 1968, where they both ended their days, which was their wish.

Margaret was then able to work in the village. She worked in the Emporium for a few years and then moved to MacDonald's shop, where she remained until she retired.

Margaret loved to bake and cook for people. Making jam was one of her passions, whilst knitting and tapestry were other hobbies that she had.

After Angie died, she loved reading books and it was very sad to see her not being able to do that when her sight started to deteriorate. Sadly it also meant she was unable to watch television.

They both enjoyed being out in the garden, and they got to know a lot of people that way as they were passing on the road.

They also both loved having their grandchildren Angela, Heather, Graeme and Shona to stay. Later they also became Great Grandparents to Duncan, Eilidh and Alejandro.

A family tradition was an

Easter Picnic on Easter Sunday, come rain, hail, snow or, occasionally, sun. There was always far too much food, but it was always a great family occasion for all generations.

Margaret sadly passed away peacefully at home on 17 May. She was 98, and what an achievement it was to still be in her own home, her wish.

Elizabeth, Sheila and their families would like to thank everyone who has looked out for Margaret and cared for her in recent years.

The Sunflower carers and, more recently, the NHS Care at Home carers showed her great care and kindness, as did the Doctors and staff at the Kilchuimen Medical Centre and the Community Nurses.

She was a great mother, granny and great granny, and she will be missed enormously by all of her family.



Ruth Irene Tulloch

Ruth was born 25th Sept, 1946 in Hitchin, Hertfordshire to Harry and

Winnie Britton. She had two sisters, Mollie and Joan and a brother, Peter. After the death of her parents, she moved to Dorset before heading north to Perth and Killin. Later she moved further north to Strathpeffer where she met her future husband, Andy and worked in the Strath Arms. Their eldest daughter was born in 1986 followed by Eilidh in 1987. The family moved to Glendoe and then to Invergarry in the early 1990's until Andy died in 2003. When both girls left home, Ruth finally settled in her flat which she loved in Abertarff Place in Fort Augustus. Sadly, she passed away in Raigmore Hospital on 19th May 2026.



Matthew Douglas

Sadly, on 23 May at 4.30 am, with his grandson by his side in Raigmore Hospital, Matthew Douglas passed away.

Matthew was born in 1941 in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, to Sarah and David Douglas, who at the time lived in Kilbarchan. Many of you will remember that

Matthew had a brother, Daniel, who sadly passed away in the late 1990s.

Matthew first met Anne in 1955. They spent many happy hours with their group of friends at Potters Field on Easwald Bank. They began courting in 1959, and on Anne's 21st birthday in 1963, Matthew asked her to marry him. At that time, he was working as a draughtsman for Ferguson Brothers Ltd in Johnstone.

On 29 October 1968, one of the greatest joys of Matthew's life arrived with the birth of his daughter, Kirsteen.

In 1970, Matthew and Anne came to the Highlands on holiday in Whitebridge. One afternoon, Anne spotted a house for sale that she thought could make a suitable bed and breakfast. They promptly drove to Fort Augustus to view the property. This was the first time they set eyes on Richmond House. On 20 November 1970, they purchased the house and made Fort Augustus their home. Matthew's first job in the area was working on the hydro-electric scheme at Foyers.

Away from work, Matthew and Anne were keen badminton players and later enjoyed playing indoor bowls together.

In 1977, Matthew began working as an ambulance contractor. In 1990, he completed his training as

an Ambulance Technician and went on to serve the local community for many years, working alongside paramedics and, later, alongside his daughter Kirsteen, who herself served as an Ambulance Technician in the community for 27 years.

Matthew was a skilled and hardworking man who, together with his son-in-law Douglas Mackenzie and the help of many local people, built three family homes. He was also a devoted family man who treasured time spent with his three grandchildren, Matthew, Rowan and Laura, of whom he was immensely proud.

Although Matthew retired from the Scottish Ambulance Service around 2008, the family's connection with the service continued. Kirsteen remained in service until her retirement in 2016 before sadly losing her battle with cancer. Matthew was immensely proud when his grandson Matthew followed in the footsteps of both his grandfather and mother, becoming the third generation of Ambulance Technicians in the family when he joined the Scottish Ambulance Service in 2018.

Matthew will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his service to the community and the many friendships he made throughout his life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Margaret MacNally

Margaret was born in Falkirk on 12 June 1929 to Catherine and Martin Kennedy, the fourth of a family of eight children. Her father worked for the Carron Ironworks and his work took the family to Burton upon Trent while Margaret was still young.

On leaving school, she worked in a woollen mill, which may well have been where she developed her lifelong love of knitting. It certainly helped her find a husband, for it was while returning home from work that she first set eyes on a handsome dark-haired Scottish soldier named Lea MacNally. Margaret never admitted whether she whistled at him on behalf of a friend who could not whistle, or for herself, but the result was the beginning of a love story that would endure for nearly fifty years.

Shortly after becoming engaged, Margaret suffered the loss of both her parents within a very short period of time. The younger members of the family moved back to Scotland to live with relatives. Margaret and Lea married in Larbert in 1950, and their first home was The Annex at St Joseph's in Fort Augustus.

Lea's first job in the area was with the Forestry Commission, but he soon secured a position as gardener and stalker on Culachy Estate. This marked the beginning of a nineteen-year association with the estate. Margaret loved Culachy dearly, and when the family moved to Torridon in 1969, she was so heartbroken to leave that she vowed never to return. True to her word, she never did, despite occasional offers to visit the "old place."

Their son Lea, known as "Wee Lea" until he eventually outgrew his father, was born in 1951, with Michael following three years later. Raising a family in those days was far from easy. There was no telephone, no television, and a wood-fired Rayburn stove served as both the heating and cooking source for the household. Yet Margaret somehow conjured nourishing meals from very little, and her baking and jam-making skills were second to none.

Most of her recipes existed only in her memory, though she enjoyed

experimenting with new ideas. Despite having no sense of smell due to a childhood illness, she possessed an uncanny ability to know exactly when something was ready to come out of the temperamental oven. Her baking efforts were occasionally complicated by Beauty, a hand-reared red deer hind who liked nothing better than wandering into the house, lying in front of the Rayburn, and helping herself to any apple tart left cooling on the windowsill.

After the boys started school, Margaret worked at the Golf View Tearoom in Fort Augustus, where she made many lasting friendships. She was also a devoted member of the Women's Rural Institute, affectionately known simply as "the Rural," and

thoroughly enjoyed Scottish country dancing. Although she never played badminton herself, she rarely missed the opportunity to accompany her husband to matches. The ladies associated with the club traditionally provided refreshments, and Margaret became renowned for her homemade venison meat paste sandwiches.

The move to Torridon in 1969 opened an entirely new chapter in her life. She made many new friends and developed new skills while running the newly built National Trust for Scotland Information Centre. One particular incident always amused her. The centre was

officially opened by what she described as an Extremely Important Person, and she was intrigued by the instruction that a very large gin and tonic should be discreetly made available for the distinguished guest—even though the ceremony was taking place in the middle of the morning.

Margaret formed a particularly close friendship with her neighbour Jean Robertson and became something of a surrogate aunt to Jean's grandchildren. Over the years she also acted as foster mother to red deer calves, roe deer fawns, goat kids and even a pine marten. She accepted these responsibilities with her usual good humour. Indeed, her ability to deal cheerfully with whatever life presented—whether it involved animals brought home by Lea or unexpected visitors arriving at the door—was truly remarkable.

Family meant everything to Margaret. Before telephones became commonplace in Torridon, she maintained regular correspondence with relatives, ensuring family ties remained strong. Her two granddaughters and four great-grandchildren were the absolute apples of her eye.

Upon retirement, Margaret and Lea returned to Fort Augustus. Tragedy struck less than two years later

when Lea died suddenly, only three years after they had celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Her courage, resilience and deep faith helped her through this difficult period, as well as a later accident in which she broke her ankle outside her home.

She developed a close friendship with her neighbour Barbara Oliver, and their regular trips into Fort Augustus were a source of great enjoyment. Barbara's passing in 2021 affected Margaret deeply. Nevertheless, she continued baking and knitting and happily fulfilled requests for kilt stockings, christening shawls and knitted toys, steadfastly refusing any payment. Her salmon mousse and shortbread were highly sought after at charitable events, as was her willingness to help with tea-making duties.

Margaret also enjoyed entering her knitwear in the handicrafts sections of the Lochaber Show and other local events, where she won numerous prizes. She loved pottering in the garden that Lea had created and took great pleasure in feeding the many red squirrels that visited.

At the age of 87, she happily accepted the opportunity to take a helicopter flight to the summit of "Young" Lea's favourite hill on Glenquoich

to celebrate his 65th birthday with a family picnic. It became one of the family's most treasured memories.

As the years passed, Margaret's health slowly declined, but she remained determined to stay active, attending lunch clubs and enjoying bus trips to Fort William and beyond. Shortly before Christmas 2025, she reluctantly moved into the Telford Centre, where she received exemplary care. She never failed to thank the staff for all they did for her, and her warmth, cheerfulness and good manners remained evident right to the end.

Margaret's Christian faith was a constant throughout her life. She worshipped faithfully at Fort Augustus Parish Church under a succession of ministers for as long as her health allowed.

Returning to that memorable helicopter trip at Glenquoich, Margaret's only reservation was that it had to take place on a Sunday because of helicopter availability. Michael helpfully pointed out that once airborne she would be three or four thousand feet closer to heaven than she would be if she stayed at home. Margaret's response was immediate, "I've no intention of getting too near heaven yet!"

As it turned out, it would be almost exactly another ten years before she did.

Church News

FORT AUGUSTUS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
NOW - 'LIVE STREAMING SERVICES' on YOUTUBE
The 1st Sunday of every month

Please join us for our
"Loch Ness Minster" services.

On the first Sunday of June, July, August, September and October we have an open air service at Old Farm Invermoriston. All are welcome at 3pm - drive off the A82 into Glenmoriston Estate - opposite Darroch View - through the pillars, turn down the track towards the river, go left through the gate and follow the track to the right alongside the Loch. There is plenty of parking. Home baking and hot drinks afterwards.
Run jointly with The Free Church, Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Scotland in Drumnadrochit and Kirkhill.

questions - mwgrant77@gmail.com



Invergarry Primary School News

We're well into the summer term at Invergarry Primary School and nursery; the last stretch before the summer holidays. In April our P6 girls took part in the swimming gala at Lochaber Leisure Centre, coming third in a relay with pupils from Spean Bridge Primary – well done to them! We have a sports workshop coming up which will give the children a chance to try out a lot of different sports; great to get everyone geared up for our sports day in June.

We recently welcomed the author James Campbell to do a workshop with all the children which everyone really enjoyed, and we also took part in a drama workshop, producing and performing a play for parents.

Our nursery pupils have been joining in with many of the school activities, and next year's P1's are taking part in some transition activities with school. Our 'Stay and Play' and Bookbug sessions have been popular with local toddlers, babies, parents and carers, and we hope to have more of these this term – keep an eye on our Facebook page for dates.

Our toy and bake sale fundraiser at the end of last term raised over £200 – thank you to everyone who came along. Our Summer Fair will be our next fundraiser and will be happening on Wednesday 1st July. We hope to see lots of families and people from the community there from 2pm at school. As always, we'd like to thank our families and community for all your continued support. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

Kilchuimen 2-18 Campus



Kilchuimen Nursery and Primary

Our Nursery pupils have been making the most of the outdoors in all the wonderful (and sometimes wild!) weather that spring brings. They are thoroughly enjoying our new office role-play area, complete with a working word-processing typewriter—fantastic support for early literacy skills.

The children have been learning about seasonal changes, including spring lambs and chicks, and are now very excited about welcoming caterpillars to Nursery soon!

It's been a busy few weeks at Kilchuimen Primary, with lots of exciting learning experiences both in and out of school.

P4-7 enjoyed a fantastic visit from Glasgow Science Centre's BodyWorks team. The session was highly interactive and gave pupils a hands-on opportunity to learn more about digestion and the human body.

Our pupils have also been making the most of the local area. A trip to the Convent Wood provided a great opportunity for outdoor learning, where children worked with Chris Rose, Convent Wood Development Officer, and Donna Connell, the Convent Wood ranger, to build dens and learn about this fantastic natural resource on our doorstep. They also enjoyed a picnic in the fresh air followed by a play on the Convent Castle.

We also took to the water with a cruise on Loch Ness. Pupils enjoyed a calm, scenic journey on our local waterway, spotting wildlife and learning more about the natural environment right on our doorstep.

As always, these experiences help bring learning to life and make the most of the rich opportunities available in our community.

We are also delighted to share that we have achieved Reading School status through the Scottish Book Trust. This is a wonderful recognition of the commitment across our school community to promoting a love of reading. A huge "well done" to all our pupils, staff and families for their contributions – and a special "thank you" to Miss Sandham for leading and coordinating this success.

In May, we proudly opened our new Discovery Garden across the 2-18 campus. The space includes a range of flowers, herbs and sensory planting, alongside loose parts for creative outdoor play and learning. A big "thank you" to Mrs Wink for leading this project and to all our pupils in P4-7 who have shown real teamwork in bringing this project to life.

As we move towards the end of term, we are excited for our end-of-year events, including Sports Day on 16th June and Prize-giving always special occasions to celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

Kilchuimen Academy

The Academy has had a busy term, welcoming education professionals from The Highland Council for a Quality Improvement visit to assess our teaching and safeguarding practices, from which we received excellent feedback. We also welcomed

Lorna Harvey from Education Scotland, who came to support us with improving attendance across the school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Omexom for generously donating a brand-new cooker to our Home Economics department. Omexom is a company specialising in energy infrastructure and renewable energy projects. Their generous donation will benefit many pupils for years to come, helping to enhance learning experiences within our Home Economics department.

Our senior pupils have also been working extremely hard over the past few weeks undertaking their exams. We are very proud of the effort, resilience, and commitment they have shown throughout the exam period and wish them every success with their results.

There have also been lots of sporting achievements this term. A huge “well done” to Fergus, who represented the U14 Lochaber Schools Rugby team this term. Well done also to our S1/2 shinty players who took part in a friendly tournament in Inverness. The team played fantastic shinty and scored some brilliant goals across the day.

Our recent Activities Week was also a great success, with pupils enjoying a wide range of exciting experiences both in and out of school. Activities included a high-speed cruise on Loch Ness, a trip to Innoflate, a visit to The Highland Cinema with a pizza lunch, and a day trip to Landmark Forest Adventure Park. Pupils also enjoyed an in-school pottery class and took part in potted sports sessions organised by High Life Highland. Thank you very much to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for making this possible and also to the Beinneun Fund for

Looking ahead, our pupils are getting ready to take part in a 12-hour Sport-a-thon on Wednesday 10th June 2026. Starting at 8am and finishing at 8pm, pupils will take part in a different sport every hour, staying active while raising funds for the school.

If any local clubs or sports people would like to deliver a session during the day, please contact Rebecca Masson at rebecca.masson2@highland.gov.uk.

Keep an eye on the school Facebook page for details on how to sponsor our pupils for the event!

We hope everyone has a lovely and relaxing summer break.

Heritage and Gaelic Update

As your local Heritage and Gaelic Development Officers, Laura and Eilidh continue to work with community groups to help share our history, culture and language. And we've been busy since our last update!

Cill Chuimein Heritage Group had an interesting get-together in February, looking at lovely old postcards of Fort Augustus and the surrounding area. These scenes sparked a wonderful discussion, and we've had requests to have a similar meeting at a later date, so we will add it to our future programme.

Eilidh organised a fantastic event at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre at the end of February to celebrate Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week). We were so pleased to meet people from far and wide who wanted to chat in Gaelic, whether they were just starting to learn the language or had been brought up speaking it. Eilidh taught everyone the Gaelic names for trees, musician Brian Ó hEadhra joined us to host a Gaelic song circle, and Franny Schlicke led a Gaelic nature walk.

There was a trip to the West Highland Museum in Fort William at the beginning of March, arranged by Cill Chuimein Heritage Group, who were welcomed by Dr Chris Robinson and given a fascinating tour of this excellent museum. Many thanks to Chris and to Matt Curley, who drove the minibus.

Later that month, we were grateful for a Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company grant that meant Cill Chuimein Heritage Group and Kilchuimen Primary could share a visit from Tom Langhorne and Jason Stone, who turned heads around Fort Augustus when they went to buy lunch looking like they'd time-travelled! Both are experts in traditional Highland survival skills and weaponry, with a particular interest in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The young people at our afternoon session at the school were already fans of Tom's Fandabi Dozi YouTube channel, and they proved to be an enthusiastic audience, with tons of questions and some very firm opinions on what makes a good stick, which they learned would have been an important part of any self-respecting Highlander's arsenal back in the day! That evening, Tom and Jason regaled the heritage group with tales of Highland life, showing us the intriguing objects they'd brought along. We were delighted to have a full house, and hope that we can invite them back soon.

A few days later, Laura gave a talk for Glenmoriston Heritage Group about great women of the Great Glen, which she's repeating for Cill Chuimein Heritage Group in November. Some of the women featured in the talk include Elizabeth MacDougall, designer of the Prince of Wales check; Elizabeth Scott, who was stationmistress at Invergarry Station; and the Invermoriston lumberjills (pictured here in the black-and-white photo).

In April, we started to record local people's stories for our archives, and have learned so much already about how life in Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston has changed over the years. It's vital to capture these recollections, and it's a really rewarding project to work on – we've been shown true Highland hospitality so far, with generous folk opening up their homes and their hearts to us.

We've also given talks to school groups, work experience students, and Trees for Life volunteers, and Laura and Linda from Cill Chuimein Heritage Group attended the Highland Heritage Day in Dingwall, coming away with plenty of inspiration and lots of useful contacts.

It seems the end of May is a hectic time for heritage, so between writing this update and it being published, we'll have attended several other events, including the final Glenmoriston Heritage Group meeting of the season. Cathy Edwards, a descendant of the last laird of Dundreggan, will beam into the Millennium Hall from her home in Canada to give a talk about 14 generations of the Grant family at Dundreggan. The group will be back in the autumn with more talks, but in the meantime, please do let us know if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, or if you're interested in joining the committee (contact details are below).

Cill Chuimein Heritage Group is also gearing up to hold its last meeting before the summer break, so by the time you're reading this, we'll have enjoyed a talk at our AGM by local lad and fount of Fort Augustus knowledge, Felix Paterson, and raised a teacup to Lynne Davidson and Jane Patten, who have decided to step down as co-chairs. Both have been leading lights of CCHG for many years, and it's thanks in no small part to their tenacity and hard work that the group is thriving today. Luckily for us, they are staying on as committee members. Thank you for everything, Lynne and Jane.

Finally, we're back at the Caley for our free Gaelic Café, Tuesdays at 3.30pm. We use SpeakGaelic materials for beginners, and you don't need to know any Gaelic to join us. Sometimes we venture outside for a walk, learning new vocabulary and hearing about Gaelic culture and heritage from Eilidh, who teaches the class. (Please note that there will be no Gaelic Café during July.)

Contact us!

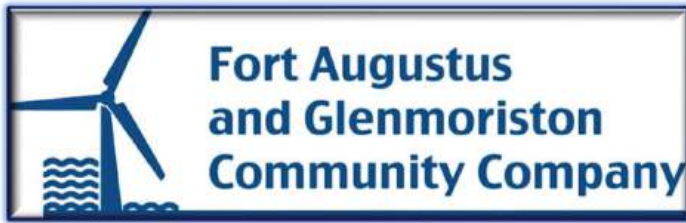
Laura Brown: laurabrown@treesforlife.org.uk

Eilidh Sykes: eilidh@treesforlife.org.uk

Cill Chuimein Heritage Group: cillchuimeinheritagegroup@gmail.com

Glenmoriston Heritage Group: glenmoristonheritagegroup@gmail.com





Tel: 01320 366800

Email: contact@communitycompany.co.uk

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 3.30pm

Convent Land Fitness Trail

Installation of the fitness trail in the Convent Land is progressing well, thanks to the work of Development Officer, Chris Rose. The trail is expected to be ready for community use in the coming weeks; just in time for community members to make the most of the summer months.

Designed with both fitness and the surrounding environment in mind, the trail features mainly wooden equipment chosen to complement the natural landscape, with some metal elements included where required for durability and functionality. Positioned a short walk (or jog!) apart, the stations encourage users to combine a variety of bodyweight exercises such as push-ups, step-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, and more, creating an accessible outdoor workout space for a wide range of ages and abilities.

The project represents a valuable addition to local community facilities promoting health, wellbeing and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Leisure and recreation were highlighted as priorities in the Community Action Plan, and the new fitness trail is a direct response to that community feedback.

Look out for free instructor led sessions to help everyone get the best from this new facility.

Funding for the project was approved earlier this year, with contributions from the Community Company and the Beinneun Fund from Foundation Scotland.



Convent Land Development Officer



It doesn't seem like it, but **Chris Rose's** fixed three-year contract as Convent Land Development Officer is reaching its expiry date but sadly it has. Chris has been working hard during his tenure and has made some fantastic achievements in this time, most notably:

Convent Castle, the children's adventure fort

Network of paths

Fitness trail

Creation of the wildflower area

We would like to thank Chris for his hard work, dedication, and passion for getting the job done and wish him the best of luck for the future. The office will be a quieter place without him.

New grants

We are delighted to share some exciting updates to our grant program, bringing even greater benefits to our community.

Student grants have increased from **£750** to **£1,000**. As recently as 2024, grants stood at **£600**, so this represents a significant and very welcome increase ahead of the usual influx of student grant applications.

Additionally, the Board has approved a new initiative to support driving lessons for community members. As part of a one-year trial, funding of up to £400 may be available towards driving lessons. If you are interested do give us a call in the office 01320 366800 to get more details.

Applicants will be required to provide evidence of eligibility, and payments will be made directly to the driving instructor.



DRIVING LESSONS
Now Funded!

We're proud to support our community on the road to independence.

- UP TO £400 IN FUNDING**
Funding of up to £400 will be available towards driving lessons.
- ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED**
Applicants must provide evidence of their eligibility.
- PAYMENTS MADE DIRECTLY**
Payments will be made directly to the driving instructor.
- ONE-YEAR TRIAL INITIATIVE**
This is a one-year trial initiative approved by the Board to help community members gain confidence, skills, and independence.

Funding in Action!

Basket weaving workshops

Willow Weaving Workshop

Sunday 24th May, 9am-5pm, Fort Augustus Village Hall

Wire frame willow basket making with local artist Christiane.
Limited spaces available. To book please email:
fortnapp@redwing.co.uk



Suitable for beginners. If you have physical strength it is easier to manipulate the willow.
Refreshments will be provided, please bring some lunch along with you.
£10 per person non-refundable deposit is required.
Eligibility: Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston residents (travel expenses are available to the extent that you have been unable to access a shop nearby).



Many thanks to PRGCD for their support and funding of this project.



Congratulations to Sarah McPhee for securing funding up to **£986** for basket weaving workshops in Fort Augustus Village Hall. Basket weaving is a traditional craft, and you get to take home your very own creation.

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council made two successful funding applications for **£940** each to host meetings with stakeholders to progress the **Road Safety, Visitor Management & Pride of Place Project** and **Resilience Planning**. These meetings will help both projects identified in the Local Place Plan to move forward. Well done and thanks to the volunteer councillors who are involved in pushing these projects forward.

Kilchuimen Primary School - Edinburgh trip

The primary school have been awarded **£2,237** to support the annual P7 pupils' Edinburgh trip where they will visit Edinburgh Castle, the zoo, tenpin bowling, and more. Congratulations to the school for the successful application and safe journey to everyone making the trip.

Invermoriston Community Shop

The Invermoriston Community Shop Committee secured **£24,498** to purchase necessary blinds and awning, and to support staff costs for the next three years. Invermoriston Community Shop provide a valuable service in an arguably remote area of our community, so the Board were delighted to continue supporting this fantastic project.

Silver Surfers – daytrips and lunches

The Silver Surfers had **£3,120** of funding approved for their monthly daytrips and lunches. The group use a local minibus and volunteer driver to visit various places of interest. The same initiative last year proved to be successful giving locals the chance for social interaction and will support health and wellbeing.

Community Larder

The Community Larder continues to be funded and stocked thanks to the work of a small number of volunteers. Unfortunately, with the recent discovery of tobacco and burnt matches in the larder, we have made the decision to close the larder at 8pm every evening until 8am the following day in the interests of fire safety. We appreciate that this is not representative of the majority of users but would respectfully remind everyone to act responsibly when using the larder.

We would really like to thank **Omexom** for their kind donation of **£500** of larder items; this is a massive help in supporting members of our community.

Caretaker's update

Unpredictable weather has been challenging our patience throughout Spring and hampering progress with many wee jobs, but nevertheless we've just got to dig a bit deeper. (Not literally, thankfully!)

The spring bulbs done us proud in the **Fountain Garden** and beyond, now it's time to look ahead at suitable bedding plants for the villages. The team have installed some creative displays to enhance quiet corners including a mock stumpery on **Caley Brae**, numerous attractive flowerpots at **Strathoich**, and currently we are working on the big corner display flower bed at **Invermoriston**. These will be planted up and hopefully put on a good show for the summer months.

Strathoich Cemetery carpark has recently had long needed drainage improvement works undertaken by **Colin Clark**. This work has made such a difference to the surface eradicating the puddling. Residents visiting the cemetery have had a very positive response to the work. Thank you Colin.

Our grass cutting regime is now in full swing, (much to the dismay to the team). Growth hasn't been too challenging to the team so far. In case you're wondering if we are drunk when cutting, we are deliberately leaving some wild patches to come through to contribute to wildflower populations, this can only help the planet surely?

Thanks for reading. *Glen*

Community skip dates

The community skip will be in the usual locations on the dates below. In Fort Augustus, Glen and the caretaker team will again set up areas for wood and metal. Please use these to prevent the skip unnecessarily filling up. This will allow more members of our community to get use of the skip.

Invermoriston 19th - 22nd June 2026

Dalchreichart 19th - 22nd June 2026



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 work their magic on anything with a plug! This service stops electrical waste from going into 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.



Glentarff House

We're delighted to report that the final building warrant drawings have been approved, meaning we have now gone out to tender to find a contractor to undertake this work. We are hoping to start bringing this lovely old building back to life later this summer.

We will be creating a one-bedroom flat and a two-bedroom maisonette to add to our portfolio of homes for affordable rent. This has been a long process, and it is amazing to see this project approaching the final stages. We can't wait to see the homes take shape and seeing the house occupied once more.

Tarff Trading

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone for all their support of the last three years. It's your support that helps keep the shop progressing.

At Tarff Trading, we're preparing for the summer months. We have everything you need to keep the garden looking vibrant, tidy, and welcoming. Our range includes weedkiller, grass cutting equipment, and even patio furniture for those days when dining **al fresco** is on the menu.

Don't forget our food stock now includes sandwiches, and we have invested in an ice-cream freezer so if you're passing by, pop in and choose from a variety of ice-cream cones and lollies to keep you cool on those warm days, or just for a well-earned treat!





Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

**FORT AUGUSTUS & GLENMORISTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL,
FORT AUGUSTUS ON WEDNESDAY,
29TH APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Deirdre MacKinnon – Chair (DM) Jenny Findlay – Vice-Chair (JF)
Mike Anderson – Treasurer (MA) James Prince (JP)
Clare Levings (CL) Cllr. Chris Ballance (CB)

CHAIR'S WELCOME:

DM welcomed all present.

MATTERS ARISING:

ROADS

Cleaning of the Fort Augustus swing bridge is well overdue, but BEAR wants to wait until November to do this. Councillors expressed concerns that this will be long after peak tourist season, at a time when roads are being gritted. DM to follow up with BEAR.

DM received a number of complaints about the frequent opening of the bridge during a BEAR/ Scottish Canals training session. She has complained to BEAR about this.

It had been anticipated that Matt White from Highland Council would have already completed his walk around Invermoriston to see existing roads-related problems (similar to the walk he did with DM, reported in the last minutes). He has, however, been busy and this has not yet taken place.

CL has received no updates on the status of the requested repair work and signage for Achnaconeran Road.

The issue of large vehicles churning up mud along Caley Brae is ongoing. DM has taken photos and will follow up with the relevant contacts.

CL noted that many previously reported road problems were discussed at the A82 road safety/ visitor management meeting (see below).

There have been no updates on the loose breeze blocks in Torgoyle Bridge.

A82 ROAD SAFETY & VISITOR MANAGEMENT

There was a meeting on 7th April with stakeholders (Highland Council, Transport Scotland, Scottish Canals, Visit Inverness Loch Ness, Visit Scotland). Speed management, road safety and parking issues affecting both Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus were discussed. These include: a possible extension of the pavement in Invermoriston to the cemetery; moving speed limit boundaries in both villages; parking enforcement; and the prospect of using Highland Hideout as an alternative car park to alleviate parking problems in Fort Augustus (a meeting will be arranged to further discuss this with the relevant parties). The continuing leak at lock gate three on Canalside North was also raised.

RESILIENCE

In addition to a meeting with stakeholders including Highland Council, SSEN and Scottish Water, there has been another meeting of the local organisations that are part of the resilience planning group. Representatives from the Community Council, Fort Augustus Parish Church, Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Association, the Hub in Dalchreichart, and Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association were all present at this meeting. It is planned that the

church, the Hub and the Millennium Hall will act as resilience hubs during critical weather events and emergencies (storms, wildfires, drought etc.), providing power, heat, light, hot water and communication links. It was emphasised that these will be hubs as opposed to refuges. MA said that households and hubs need to be prepared for 48 hours without input from stakeholders (e.g. a food truck arriving, or power being restored, though this timeline is dependent on a number of factors and does vary from organisation to organisation). He reiterated that residents should look at the resilience advice on the Community Council website (fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk/Resilience-Planning.html) and ensure that they are prepared. JP also explained that no official local plans have been finalised. These plans will be tailored to each area, drawing from stakeholder advice, before being signed off.

ETAPE & ULTRA X DM noted that cyclists in the recent Etape race were relieving themselves and discarding items of clothing before tackling the hill to Glendoe. This was raised last year and has been raised again this year as it remains an issue. JP added that there should ideally be a support station in Fort Augustus to avoid this problem.

In previous years, payments have been made from Ultra X to Glendoe Estate in return for the use of their land for camping during their ultramarathon event. This has been being filtered back into the community via donations to local groups. This year, the payment is being made to Highland Hideout as the camp location has changed. DM will discuss potential uses of these funds with Highland Hideout. It was also reiterated that Ultra X would be charged to access the public toilets in Invermoriston.

While discussing Glendoe Estate, DM added that no major work would take place this year on the Ride Ness development.

DOG FOULING

DM has received a number of complaints about dog fouling along Canalside and Lovat Terrace. Dougie Gordon from Scottish Canals has ensured the dog waste bins have been replaced beside the canal, but there is a shortage of such bins elsewhere, particularly in the area between the convent land and the golf course. This is leading to dog waste bags being jettisoned, or dogs being allowed to foul along walking routes. A resident present at the meeting said the same was happening around the west end of the village. JP asked about the possibility of increased/clearer signage to warn dog walkers of possible fines, and he mentioned trail cameras as a possible deterrent and/or means of identifying offenders. DM said there is a dog warden who could help, though she is based in Kingussie. DM to follow up on these various options. It was also suggested that an article in Ness News, making people aware of the dog warden and fines for fouling, might be worthwhile.

INCHNACARDOCH LAND

The transfer of the Inchnacardoch Land from the Community Council to Cill Chuimein Legacy Project (CCLP) will be completed in June.

DM has approached Glendoe Estate and Culachy Estate about possible funding for CCLP.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Restricted funds (Inchnacardoch Land): £6066

Restricted funds (visitor management/road safety meetings): £645

Restricted funds (resilience meetings): £747.50

Unrestricted funds: £3,821.97

Total funds: £11,280.47

COMMUNITY COMPANY REPORT:

CL reported that a new Operations Manager has been recruited to replace Karen Edwards, who is retiring. Martin McDonald joins the Community Company team from Dundreggan Rewilding Centre.

A grant towards driving lessons is being reinstated. Local learner drivers can apply for a maximum of £400 per claimant towards their tuition. This will be paid directly to the driving instructor or driving school. It isn't restricted to school leavers, all ages can apply.

The future of housing in the area was discussed at the last Community Company meeting. New builds, co-housing and HMOs (houses in multiple occupation) are all options to consider, as there is a need for housing for single people, couples etc. as well as families.

SCIO REPORT:

In addition to the points made by DM in the Inchnacardoch Land section above, JP said insurance quotes have been sourced ahead of the completion of the transfer in June. A CCLP meeting is scheduled for 30th April, so there will be further updates at June's Community Council meeting.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS:

JF said that works begin at Forestry and Land Scotland's Torr Dhuin car park at Auchterawe on 30th April, for seven days. There will be no vehicular access during that time but pedestrian access will be maintained.

JP and JF commented that the planning application (for turbines and a battery storage system) at Culachy has been rejected by the Scottish Government. DM added that Highland Council has raised an objection to the Fearn development (a pumped storage hydro facility at Loch Quoich).

PLANNING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS:

Reference: 26/01395/FUL

Description of works: Erection of 100m high met mast (renewal of 24/01786/FUL)

Location: Land 2km NW of Farm Cottage, Tomchrasky Farm, Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston

Applicant: E Power Ltd.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMUNITY AMENITY ISSUES:

The Community Council is waiting for costs for the playpark at Abertarff.

The Convent Land Fitness Trail is now complete.

A resident has asked DM about the tennis court, and suggested it could be turned into a padel court (padel is a mix of tennis and squash). DM advised them to ask the Community Company.

DM has been asked about the lack of public bins on Canalside. People walking the Great Glen Way are using domestic wheelie bins, which leads to recycling getting mixed up. The existing issue of the lack of bins on Bunoich Brae/Crescent was also raised, as was that of a grit bin for Canalside North/Bruces Buildings. JF asked if the Community Council has a contact at Highland Council for the Great Glen Way; CB responded that this is Phil Waite (Outdoor Access and Long Distance Route Manager).

Gaining access down to the loch from Invermoriston has been brought up again. This is a longstanding issue; DM will speak to Stewart Eastaugh at Highland Council.

JF acknowledged that the team at Scottish Canals has made an effort to tidy their bins and that the dog waste bins have also been emptied.

A resident mentioned the swing bridge being dirty (see also the Roads section above). DM is pursuing this with BEAR. JP added that SEPA had raised a concern, possibly regarding flaking paint causing water pollution.

CL said the problem with the drain at the end of Dalcataig Road still hasn't been sorted out. Further up Dalcataig Road, there are some large potholes, exacerbated by timber lorries that aren't meant to be using that route. DM will speak to Matt White at Highland Council about this. She will mention the need for more parking at Riverside Park at the same time.

CL asked if arrows can be painted on the A887 at Invermoriston, to indicate to visitors from abroad which side of the road they should be driving on. She also requested yellow lines just around the corner from the shop, when turning onto the A887. People are parking there and it is

a hazard. DM will follow up with Highland Council and Ken Hossack at BEAR.

A resident asked for an update on the off-grid residential site in Invermoriston. Further to the concerns raised at the last Community Council meeting, it is believed that they have no toilet facilities, and there have been reports of residents urinating on the road. DM will progress this.

JP said the leak from lock gate three appears to be worse at the moment, perhaps caused by water levels in the adjacent lock, or by large cruise ships passing through.

JP also noted that the barn swallows have returned to Fort Augustus after their winter migration. They nest in the Scot II icebreaker moored on the canal, which has not yet been removed despite Scottish Canals' plans to do so last year (it can only be removed when there are no nesting birds inside). Therefore, there is now an extremely limited period of time in which Scottish Canals can act before the swallows begin nesting, or Scot II will have to remain there until the birds migrate in autumn. This information will be relayed to Scottish Canals.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

AOCB:

CB notified Councillors of two upcoming overnight road closures. The first, south of Drumnadrochit, will see works taking place from 31st May to 5th June (8pm-6am with amnesties). The second, between Invermoriston and Fort Augustus at Port Clair and Allt na Criche, will be undertaken between 14th and 24th June (7pm-6am with diversions).

A resident raised the ongoing issue of people defecating on the convent land, many of whom are holidaymakers at the adjacent caravan park. The Convent Land Ranger has been keeping a record of these incidents but wants to know what to do with this information. The resident enquired if it should be directed to SEPA or Environmental Health. MA advised that it will need to go through the Community Company in the first instance. A discussion ensued. JP added that prosecution is tricky as they need to be caught in the act by the police. The resident asked if CCTV was an option; JP also suggested trail cameras. JF asked CB if Highland Council has an obligation to intervene, given that they granted planning permission for the caravan park, and this may contravene the planning conditions. MA suggested that representatives from Loch Ness Caravan Park, the Community Company and the Community Council should meet to discuss a solution. CL said that if a toilet was provided at the caravan park it would deter campers from using the convent land. This could be a simple composting toilet. MA said clear deterrent signage, before people even leave the caravan site, is also required.

Another resident thanked Councillors for two recent repairs they facilitated near the old bridge over the River Oich. However, the issue of campervans parking overnight opposite the 'no overnight parking' sign on Oich Road still needs to be solved. JP said the police would patrol the area if they are told when this most frequently happens. The resident confirmed that it is fairly constant. MA added that Highland Council has been asked to look at the problem, and the Community Council is awaiting their thoughts.

Regarding the repainting of yellow lines, DM said Matt White at Highland Council agreed with Daniel Clark's suggestion (see minutes of the Community Council meeting on 28th January 2026) of improving the flow of traffic at the pier with directional arrows and a circular route.

The fence at the turning area also needs to be repaired as it has fallen over and has now been thrown near the river. DM will raise this with Scottish Canals as this may be their land.

DM added that Visit Inverness Loch Ness has contacts at all the main tour companies which will help Councillors as they work to alleviate traffic problems. CB advised they keep in touch with PC Jonjo Gibb about these issues.

A resident asked for an update on the reinstatement of flagpoles at the main car park in Fort Augustus. Local children designed flags and it would be nice to fly these. DM will ask Ross

Bartlett at Highland Council. How to fund the flagpoles was discussed; CL will bring this up at the next Community Company meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

The AGM will be held at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on Wednesday, 27th May 2026 at 7.15pm, followed by the regular Community Council meeting.

READY TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?

COME & TRY PICKLEBALL!

FAST-PACED FUN!
EASY TO LEARN!
AGES 9-99!
GET ACTIVE & SOCIAL!

FREE PICKLEBALL | PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS!

WHEN: 20th of June
TIME: 5pm
WHERE: Invermoriston Millennium Hall
COST: it's free!

ALL AGES & ABILITIES WELCOME!

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED | JUST SHOW UP!
JOIN THE FUN! LEARN THE BASICS! MEET NEW PEOPLE!

PICKLEBALL CLINIC!

LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING on picklegmh@gmail.com

Notice Board

The Legion, Canalside Fort Augustus

Upcoming Events at the Club

June

Every Monday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10.30pm
Wednesday 10th Killer Pool Tournament and Raffle
7pm – 9pm

Saturday 13th Karaoke 8pm to 12am

Saturday 20th Abba Themed Disco/Karaoke Night
8pm – 12.00am

Thursday 25th Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm

July

Every Monday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10.30pm
Wednesday 8th Killer Pool Tournament and Raffle 7pm –
9pm

Thursday 23rd Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm

August

Every Monday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10.30pm
Wednesday 12th Killer Pool Tournament and Raffle
7pm – 9pm

Thursday 27th Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm
Saturday 30th Live music and dancing from Black Rock
Ceilidh Band 9pm – 12.00am

Everybody Welcome

See Posters at the Club for more details

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

DRIVE LOCAL
3 Glens Community Care
HELP LOCAL

Help Keep Our Community Moving

Our Community Taxi Scheme is looking for friendly, reliable volunteer drivers to support local people who need help getting out and about.

DRIVERS NEEDED IN ALL 3 AREAS:
FORT AUGUSTUS • GLENGARRY • GLENMORISTON

FLEXIBLE & REWARDING

- Drive when it suits you
- Meet new people
- Support those who need it most
- Mileage expenses covered

WHAT YOU NEED

- Full UK driving licence
- Your own car
- Friendly and patient attitude
- A few spare hours now and then

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH!

Beth Stewart
Development Officer & Services Coordinator
Mobile 07507627990
email contact@3glenscare.org

Be the reason someone gets there

Drive Local. Help Local.

HG Working with Highland Hospice

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

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@kishmul.me.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

contact@3glenscare.org



Notice Board

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

Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

**At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
11am - 3pm**

Cost only £3 per session

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

Bus to Fort William

Community minibus - Booking essential

Wednesday 15th July

£3

Departing Fort Augustus Car Park 0945
Police Station 0950
Abertarff Place 0955
Invergarry 1015

Leaving Fort William 1330 approx.
Return to Fort Augustus 1500 approx.
Shopmobility scooters available. Please ask when booking.

**To book phone Jenny:
01320 366438 / 07790582458**

Next trips: Weds 15th July & 19th August



Fort Augustus
Senior
Citizens

COMMUNITY SOUP & SANDWICHES

Wednesday 24th June

12.00 – 14.00

Fort Augustus Village Hall



For more information contact Helen on
07359 083997

Donations welcome for various charities

Thanks to



Fort Augustus
and Glenmoriston
Community Company

&

BANK OF SCOTLAND

GLENGARRY *Come along!* HIGHLAND GAMES



craft stalls,
activities,
performances
& fantastic
food!

It's a brilliant day out for all the family!



54th

**Saturday 4th July
Craigard Park, Invergarry.
Gates Open 10am.**

GLENGARRYGATHERING.ORG



GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES- SCOTLAND