

To contact the Community Company, call 01320 366800
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Soup and Sandwich Days

The Soup and Sandwich Days are running every second and fourth Wednesday of month at Fort Augustus Village Hall.

Arranged by Helen Clay and a small team of volunteers, the Soup and Sandwich Days are free for anyone in the community although donations are gladly accepted.

So far, Helen and the team have collected £164.49 for Highland Hospice, £270 for the MS Society and £180.23 for 3-Glens Community Care.

Helen, successfully secured £486 funding from the Community Company, planned the days, and arranged the team for prepping the sandwiches, making the soup and the tea and cakes that of course come along with it.

The funds were used to bring in additional equipment such as the soup pot and blender. The team also use the funds to buy the food and ingredients from Tarff Trading.

The days were initially planned to run for two months, but their popularity was evidence that the community enjoys and benefits from them. So, Helen and the team secured further funding of £4,291.97 for more equipment, including a dishwasher and large fridge/freezer and to ensure food ingredients can be provided for the coming months meaning the days can continue.

A massive well done to Helen and the team for successfully organising and running the days, providing a warm, welcoming environment to everyone. And good luck to volunteer Jackie who was invaluable in setting it up and has now moved on to newer pastures.

Also thank you to the Bank of Scotland for agreeing to share the hall with the Soup and Sandwich Days.

If you haven't yet come along, it's recommended for the food, the company, and the fantastic atmosphere. It's also an opportunity to speak with the Community Banker.

Community Open Day – Saturday 22nd June

The Community Company AGM is scheduled for November this year. That's a long time to wait to hear about what is happening right now. With that in mind we are organising an Open Day for Saturday 22nd June from 10am till 12pm. This will be an opportunity to find out a little more about who has successfully secured funding and what projects are underway within the community.

We do hope that you will come along and find out more about what has been happening.



Community Action Plan

The Community Action Plan foundation work has been entrusted to consultant Nick Wright, who will be working hard to make sure your voice is heard.

This gives the community the opportunity to tell us what they want for the village such as facilities, communal areas, work and to address issues that are important such as housing, transport, and recreation.

Nick will work with various groups in the community establishing future priorities. Look out for community engagement events across the communities to make sure you take the chance to put your ideas over, and to discuss these vital issues that affect our communities.

You can scan the QR code which will take you straight to the survey online. Alternatively, paper surveys will be available in a range of outlets, as will drop boxes for completed surveys.

The Community Company and Community Council want to make sure everyone has the chance to have their say on what happens next.



Grants

Ness District Fisheries Board wanted to teach P3 to P5 pupils at Kilchuimen Primary School about the water all around them. The Fishery Board managed to secure a grant of £1,519.98 from the Community Company towards the project. The special sessions are focusing on Loch Ness and its uses, the Water Cycle, Animals of Loch Ness and the Atlantic Salmon.



Lyndsey Surkitt applied to the Community Company for £1,000 towards the costs of buying and installing audio visual equipment at Millennium Hall. The equipment is available for hall users and is expected to be especially helpful for activities such as dancing groups and meditation among others.

Lyndsey worked with Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association to select the preferred equipment and to arrange installation.

Thanks to Lyndsey and the board at GMHCA for organising and putting the grant to good use.

If you have a community benefit project or a group to start, then consider the Community Company for funding. Give us a call on 01320 366800 for more information. We're here to help.

Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council secured £4,578 to help fund June activities including a trip to Dundreggan and a trip to Edinburgh. This will benefit many school children from across our community providing the experience of travelling with friends and promoting independence. Congratulations to everyone involved in arranging the trips and for securing funding from the Community Company.



Kilchuimen Academy organised for seventeen senior students and two teachers to travel to London for an educational trip. Pupils studying a combination of Modern Studies, Design and Manufacturing and Graphics Communication enjoyed the two-day trip. Kilchuimen Academy sought and secured £2,866 in funding from the Community Company.

The students taking part in the trip brought back memories to last a lifetime in this educational and fun filled trip. Head teacher Yvonne Walker told the Community Company;

“The trip was a success, filled with engaging and educational activities that all the pupils enjoyed. Visiting iconic landmarks such as the London Eye, the Natural History Museum, visiting the Design Museum, and going on a guided tour of Parliament, provided the pupils opportunities to develop and improve the knowledge gained within the classroom. Seeing real world applications of the knowledge and skills they have been developing, seemed to encourage them to ask questions and want to learn more about various aspects of the itinerary locations.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and belief in our goal to provide learning experiences for our pupils.”



Congratulations to everyone involved with organising such a successful trip.

Community Skip Days

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

Invermoriston	-	5th to 8th July
Dalchreichart	-	5th to 8th July
Fort Augustus	-	8th to 10th July

There are strict regulations regarding acceptable items for the skips. A good rule of thumb is to avoid discarding fabrics into the skips; these will be deemed as fire retardant materials and will result in a large fine. Fridge/freezers, asbestos and liquids including paint, and tyres are unacceptable.

If you need to check if your items to be discarded are suitable for Bowman's Skips, then please call 01320 366800 or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk. Alternatively, Bowmans are very helpful in providing information on acceptable items and can be called on 01397 722218.

Student Grants

With the new academic year starting in September, don't forget we offer a student grant to help with all those expenses. Full details and the application form are on our website.

www.communitycompany.co.uk

Community Caretakers - Spring update from Glen Campbell

Well Spring has certainly sprung; or has it sprang? I'll leave you to decide the appropriate verb and just get on with it.

It's hit the caretaking team with a vengeance excelling vigorous growth everywhere and anywhere. Our efforts to tame such growth is beating us at the moment but we are always chasing its heels; and I would be happy with a draw at the end of the season.

The usual seasonal waste volume is trending with visiting tourists from all over the planet, asking the same questions like; 'Excuse me Sir, are there toilets nearby?', but in another accent. It sometimes enters my head that I really should put the effort in to learn a different language but then thankfully the thought goes out the other end as quick as it came in.

The team have been delighted by small achievements this year so far, such as the floral displays at the toilet block and main carpark, having some usable home-made compost from our community area for projects and enrichment, enjoying the cherry blossom on the specimen trees on Cali Brae and delighting in controlling a few "*pesky wabbits*" that are unwanted in appropriate places!

This year we are also grateful for some volunteer help from the one and only Mr Robert Ramsay who has kindly taken on the responsibility of maintaining Kirton Memorial Garden. He's really doing a sterling job and looking forward to the new bedding plants arriving to add some colour.

Future larger project plans include improving cemetery paths and controlling imposing dominant trees, fixing collapsing dry-stone dykes, and building on a workable plan for our very popular community composting site. However, mean time, there's a never-ending standard maintenance plan to work through week on week; so, on that note Adios for now; there's jobs to do! *Glen*

Tarff Trading

We're delighted to see the PayPoint facilities in the store have been popular with the community. Unfortunately, this is a cash only service. If we were to accept card payments Tarff Trading would have to pay the fees, as they earn very little from PayPoint for a transaction it would not cover the cost, so for now it is not viable to do this. Hopefully in the future this can be changed.

With signs of Summer fast approaching, our gardening range has everything you need to keep your garden tidy and up to date. And for those who enjoy barbecuing and a bit of dining al fresco, we have bistro furniture as beautifully demonstrated by the lovely Nigel enjoying a coffee.

Our new animal products range is proving really popular. It seems that lots of you have chickens, and that range sells fast. If you need a regular supply do let us know so we can keep an order for you.

Fresh produce and dairy products are always available, along with a range of cold meats and frozen food. We do our best to stock the lines the community want prioritised so let us know if you think we're missing something. The community store isn't a community store without your valued suggestions.



Convent Land Update

Convent Land Development Officer Chris Rose is focusing on extending and developing the natural paths network on the Convent Land. Chris is seeking specialist guidance to make the path through the woods accessible for everyone without adversely impacting the woodland.

In the early consultations for the land, a children's play area was a popular suggestion. Chris is working with Kilchuimen Academy to gather the young people's ideas and to make sure their thoughts are represented. He is also working with experts in this field to establish an appropriate location and materials, to bring the adventure play park to life.

Planning permission can take some time to go through but Chris will keep pushing forward so everyone in the community can have the opportunity to enjoy the walks through the land and even perhaps enjoy some time to play!



An image of the potential type of construction Chris is investigating.

Apprentices

Congratulations to Connor Kelly and Angus MacKinnon for successfully securing their apprenticeships and starting their careers in this community.

Connor was working part-time at the Lovat Hotel and enjoyed it so much that he was delighted to accept an offer to kickstart his career in hospitality with them. The Lovat Hotel was delighted at the opportunity to bring Connor on board as an apprentice; an apprenticeship which will see Connor have access to some prestigious hospitality courses. Thank you to Caroline at the Lovat Hotel for providing Connor with this fantastic opportunity.



Angus MacKinnon has obtained a three-year apprenticeship with C.F.Electrical which will result in Angus being a fully qualified electrician.

Both apprenticeships are supported by funding from the Community Company. We wish them the best of luck with their apprenticeships. And thank you to Caroline at the Lovat and Cameron of C.F.Electrical for giving Connor and Angus the opportunity to kickstart their careers.

Interestingly, Cameron of C.F Electrical, started his own career by successfully completing a Community Company funded apprenticeship. A huge thanks to Cameron for taking Angus under his wing.

Best of luck to Connor and Angus for their training. We're looking forward to seeing how both develop in the coming months and years.

Hot off the press! - Community Company is buying the Memorial Hall.

Come along on the **22nd June** to find out more about plans for this space.