



AN CARRANNACH

*The General Interest Magazine of Lochcarron, Shieldaig,
Applecross, Kishorn, Torridon & Kinlochewe Districts*

NO: 364

May 2018

£1.00

Proposal to designate Loch Carron as a nature conservation Marine Protected Area (MPA), with an associated Marine Conservation Order (MCO)

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the designation of Loch Carron as a Marine Protected Area as well as the associated Marine Conservation Order.

Under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Scottish Ministers can designate a Marine Protected Area (MPA) on an urgent basis without publishing notice of their proposals or consulting those likely to be affected.

Loch Carron was designated as an MPA in this way in May 2017, following confirmation of damage to sensitive seabed habitats in the area. An urgent Marine Conservation Order (MCO) was put in place at the same time to manage fisheries activity.

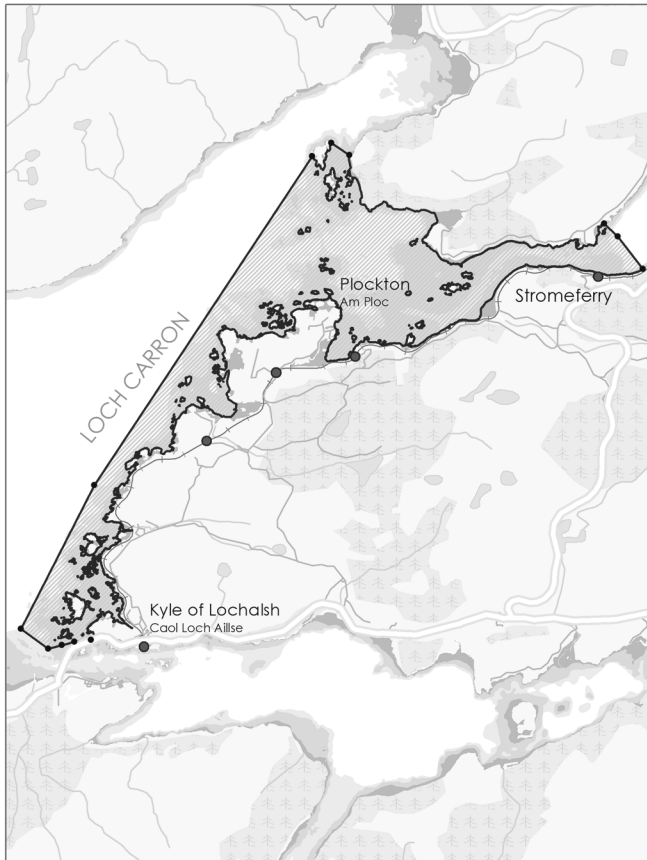
The existing urgent MPA and MCO are still in place in Loch Carron. However, an MPA designated on an urgent basis only lasts for a maximum of two years. Normal procedures for protected area designations, including public consultation, need to be undertaken to designate a permanent MPA.

Therefore, the two items below are the subject of this public consultation:

- Proposal to designate Loch Carron as a nature conservation Marine Protected Area (MPA) to protect flame shell beds and maerl beds with an updated site boundary.
- Proposal to make a Marine Conservation Order (MCO) to further the stated conservation objectives for the Loch Carron MPA

Through this 12-week public consultation we are seeking views on:

- Support for designating Loch Carron as a MPA to replace the existing one;
 - The scientific case underpinning the proposal, the proposed protected features, and the site boundary;
 - Draft conservation objectives and management advice;
 - The draft MCO which proposes to prohibit bottom-contacting mobile fishing gears within the MPA to replace the one currently in force; and,
- The draft Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment of the proposed designation and management measures.



Loch Carron Marine Protected Area

Projection: Mercator | Standard Parallel: 57N

0 800 1,600 m

A	57° 22.691' N	005° 38.781' W	J	57° 17.000' N	005° 45.494' W
B	57° 22.547' N	005° 38.386' W	K	57° 18.683' N	005° 43.908' W
C	57° 21.747' N	005° 32.878' W	L	57° 22.535' N	005° 39.190' W
D	57° 21.597' N	005° 32.584' W	Coordinates on WGS84 datum. The landward boundary follows, for the most part, the mean low water spring tide line (MLWS). Bridges, harbours, piers, breakwaters, and jetties are excluded.		
E	57° 21.218' N	005° 32.041' W			
F	57° 16.871' N	005° 43.977' W			
G	57° 16.850' N	005° 44.335' W			
H	57° 16.810' N	005° 44.607' W			
I	57° 16.767' N	005° 44.905' W			

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Why We Are Consulting

This page serves as notice for two purposes:

- Under section 75 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 that Scottish Ministers propose to designate Loch Carron as a nature conservation Marine Protected Area (MPA).
- Under section 87(6) and (7) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 that Scottish Ministers propose to make the Loch Carron Marine Conservation Order to further the stated conservation objectives for the proposed Loch Carron MPA.

In accordance with section 87(7)(b) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, a copy of the draft Order can be downloaded or inspected at:

Scottish Government
1A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Please email Marine_Conservation@gov.scot in order to make arrangements if you would like to inspect the Order in person.

Additional information:

The boundary of the Loch Carron MPA and the proposal to include maerl beds, another diverse and particularly sensitive seabed habitat as a feature of the site, were developed by SNH in discussion with Marine Scotland following new survey work in 2017.

Maerl beds are one of the inshore Priority Marine Features for which work is currently underway to identify where additional fisheries management is needed in Scottish waters.

How to respond to the consultation

Online: <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/loch-carron-mpa/>

By email: marine_conservation@gov.scot

Post: Loch Carron Consultation

Marine Scotland

Marine Planning and Policy

Area 1-A South

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ

Editorial

We received the sad news of Maureen Lyons' death just before our May edition closed. On behalf of all the readers of An Carrannach, this is to record our thanks and appreciation for the tremendous job that Maureen did on behalf of us all over the past years as our regular Garden writer. Her monthly gardening column was much enjoyed and read with interest by many. She was always very well-organised and planned ahead which was so helpful for all those involved; for Mavis in the past and also for the current team who produce this publication. Even when she knew she was ill, she took great care to ensure we were prepared. Our sympathy is with her husband Tony and family at this difficult time.

AN CARRANNACH

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Contact subs@ancarrannach.com

Material intended for publication must include your name and address.

Please note we can now accept copy in any format..

CLOSING DATE FOR THE JUNE 2018 ISSUE

**MATERIAL MUST BE RECEIVED BY
NO LATER THAN 15TH MAY PLEASE
E&OE.**

The An Carrannach Society does not accept responsibility for the content/accuracy of reports, articles and advertisements received. The views expressed by contributors are NOT necessarily those of the Society.

THE BEALACH *café* AND GALLERY

The Bealach Café, family run since April 2015, provides the perfect place to stop and refresh whilst travelling in either direction over the famous *Bealach Na Ba* road pass.

We serve freshly-ground coffee, home-made scones, cakes, pastries, soups and light lunches - all with a warm, friendly Highland welcome.

The Bealach Gallery exhibits and sells landscape and abstract painted works by local Scottish artists.

The Bealach Gallery also exhibits and sells pottery, jewellery, textiles and rugs by established artists and emerging talent, as well as individual pieces of furniture from the Tornapress workshop.

We also provide a picture framing service.



TORNAPRESS FURNITURE AND JOINERY MANUFACTURE

Tornapress Furniture is run by John Murphy who has been a cabinet maker for over 30 years. We produce a wide variety of bespoke timber-based furniture, including individual pieces, fitted domestic/office furniture and architectural joinery.

The Bealach Café and Gallery

Tornapress · Kishorn · Wester Ross · IV54 8XE
t: 01520 733436 · e: info@thebealach.co.uk
w: thebealach.co.uk

Tornapress Furniture and Joinery Manufacture

Tornapress · Kishorn · Wester Ross · IV54 8XE
t: 01520 733243 · e: john@tornapress.co.uk
w: tornapress.co.uk

**Scottish Episcopal Church
Courthill Chapel, Kishorn**

**Services for May
Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.**

May 6 10.30 a.m.	Eucharist Easter 6	Rev. John Searl
May 13 10.30 a.m.	Eucharist Easter 7	Rev. Ossie Post
May 20 10.30 a.m.	Eucharist Pentecost	Most Rev. Mark Strange
May 27 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion Trinity Sunday	Marcus Given
June 3 10.30 a.m.	Eucharist Pentecost 2	Rev. Heather Widdows

For more information, ring:

Marcus Given Rita Sykes
01520 722 617 01520 722 995

Rev. Heather Widdows or Rev. John Searl
01445 712 176 01445 741 231

Roman Catholic Mass
Father William MacLean
Monthly on Thursdays
Contact 01478 613 227
Urgent 07717 222 492

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
APPLECROSS, LOHCARRON &
TORRIDON**

Charity No: SCO32334

Times and Places of Worship for May 2018

6th May	Lohcarron Shieldaig	10.30am 1.00pm
13th May	Lohcarron Shieldaig	10.30am 1.00pm
20th May	Lohcarron Kinlochewe	10.30am 1.00pm
27th May	Lohcarron Applecross	10.30am 1.00pm

Minister Rev. Anita Stutter
Tel. 01520 722783
Email astutter@churchofscotland.org.uk

ALL ARE WELCOME

**FREE CHURCH LOHCARRON &
APPLECROSS**

You are welcome at our services
Lohcarron Church Street IV54 8YP

Sunday 11am and 6 pm

(Crèche and Sunday school)
Midweek Wednesdays 7.30pm

Applecross Camusterrach IV54 8LU
3 pm every Sunday

Other events as intimated.
Scottish Charity SC038169

Rev M. Florit 01520 722999

marcos.florit@gmail.com

www.freechurch.org

**All Saints (Scottish
Episcopal) Mission,
Kinlochewe**

*(Church of Scotland
Building)*

Services for May and June
2018

Sunday 6th May 2.30pm

Sunday 3rd June 2.30pm

Celebrant and Preacher:

Revd Pam Shinkins

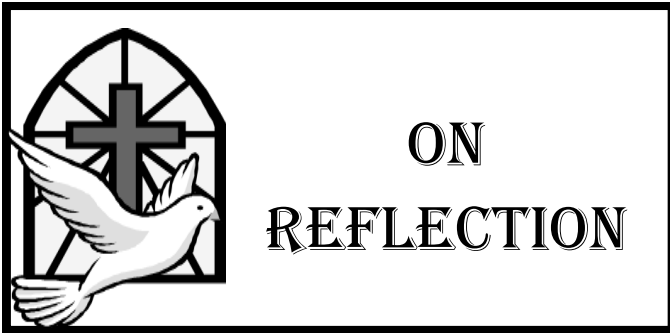
Everyone welcome

All enquiries:

01445 781346

Scottish Charity

number : SC004655



ON REFLECTION

What is truth? An intriguing question asked by many in the past and present. What is truth?

How to differentiate between fake news and news that tells the truth? Who or what to believe what we read or hear on the internet, social media, papers or stories people tell us? We are bombarded with information, but what is true and what is false?

And how often do we hear only part of the story on which we base our assumptions but once we know the whole story, it turns out that what we thought was true is no longer the truth?

Once I heard a story about a young teenager. He was running over the pavement and nearly knocked down an elderly couple.

If this is the only information we have we could come to the conclusion that this was a careless hurried teenager that didn't look out. He or she should have taken greater care. Although nothing happened this time on another occasion he/she could easily knock someone down with devastating consequences.

Having no more information this is an easy conclusion to draw. However, the truth is that this was not the whole story. It continues.

There was indeed a young teenager. It was true, he was running over the pavement nearly knocking down an elderly couple but what followed changed the assumed truth. He was running to jump on the road to grab a toddler that had walked into the road while a car was speeding towards the child. Because of the quick thinking of the teenager the child was unharmed and returned back safely to his mother.

What is truth?

Is truth as we see it not shaped by our knowledge but also by our experience, our culture, our traditions? And it is not very difficult so not impossible to see the clear truth without the influence of our knowledge, life experience and background?

How you see the world depends on who you are. When last May the removal van arrived at the Manse and the guy stepped out he looked around and said, you lucky people, to live in such a wonderful spot. I have to admit I agree with him. It is how I see it and experience it. However, I know a similar story of a delivery driver who had to deliver something in the Torridon area, who stepped out of

his van and couldn't believe that people could stay in that place voluntarily. It is just how you observe the world around you.

What is truth? What is the truth in our faith? Christ says He is the truth, but how do we see His truth. Although Christ is the truth, is it not also true that how we see His truth is coloured by who we are?

Let me illustrate this with an Indian parable.

Once an elephant came to a small town. People had read and heard of elephants but no one in the town had ever seen one. Thus, a huge crowd gathered around the elephant, and it was an occasion for great fun, especially for the children. Five blind men also lived in that town, and consequently heard about the elephant. They had never seen an elephant before and were eager to find out.

Someone suggested that they could go and feel the elephant with their hands. They could then get an idea of what an elephant looked like. The five blind men went to the centre of the town where all the people made room for them to touch the elephant.

Later on, they sat down and began to discuss their experiences. One blind man, who had touched the trunk of the elephant, said that the elephant must be like a thick tree branch. Another who touched the tail said the elephant probably looked like a snake or rope. The third man, who touched the leg, said the shape of the elephant must be like a pillar. The fourth man, who touched the ear, said that the elephant must be like a huge fan while the fifth, who touched the side, said it must be like a wall.

They sat for hours and argued, each one was sure that his view was correct. Obviously, they were all correct from their own point of view, but no one was quite willing to listen to the others. Finally, they decided to go to the wise man of the village and ask him who was correct.

The wise man said, "Each one of you is correct; and each one of you is wrong. Because each one of you had only touched a part of the elephant's body. Thus, you only have a partial view of the animal. If you put your partial views together, you will get an idea of what an elephant looks like."

The moral of the story is that each one of us sees things exclusively from our own point of view. However, we should also try to understand other people's points of view in order to get a proper perspective on different situations and events.

In life we encounter all kinds of people. Similarly minded people and those who think totally differently from ourselves.

Therefore, realizing that knowledge of the truth is only partial and not yet complete, should we not seek the truth with an open mind and a humble heart, respecting each other's point of view and accepting that we don't have an answer to all the questions?

Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians:

What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror, then we shall see face to face.

What I know now is partial. But one day it will be complete.

Rev A. Stutter.



NATURE NOTES

March 16th – April 15th 2018

We have had some wonderful weather since last month's Nature Notes and with nature's rebirth moving on fast, sights and sounds of spring abound. Blackthorn is blooming, Larches and Hawthorn are greening up and Willow Trees in the

garden have been brought alive by the sound of Bumble Bees feeding on the flowers. My Cowslips and Wood Anemones are fully open and Bluebells, now well up through the ground, will be flowering very soon.

The usual group of Eiders is visible (and audible) on the loch having moved closer to shore to breed, as have the Red-throated Divers that you can hear calling from the south side of the loch towards Ardnarff.

There are still some winter visiting birds around, indeed Francis Minay emailed with news of approximately 60 Redwings in the trees around his house in Achintee on April 9th but with very little around for them to eat, they soon moved on northwards.

By the time May's An Carrannach is published, summer visitors such as Swallows, Cuckoos, Sandpipers and Wheatears will be here and Willow Warblers will be piercing the air with their sweet song, a cadence sliding down the scale. The full phrase of a Willow Warbler's song, repeated five to seven times a minute is noted for 'its compelling gentleness' (A.L. Turnbull, *Bird Music*) and Edward Grey in his book *The Charm of Birds* describes the song as 'soft as summer rain'. Edward Grey (Lord Grey of Falloden 1862-1933) was a Liberal statesman with a passion for wildlife, especially birds. His book I mentioned is full of insights into the impact of birds on their human neighbours, especially the power of birdsong.

I heard my first Chiffchaff on April 11th but that was over on the east, believe it or not in the trees on the edge of the Eastfield Way Tesco car park! On the same trip over to Inverness, I caught sight of one of the local Ospreys which pleased me no end. It was sitting with its head tilted upwards sky-watching, presumably looking for its mate.

It was also wonderful to note that there is a pair of Lapwings near Achnasheen, possibly the same ones that I caught sight of last year. For centuries, the Lapwings' dark, freckled eggs were collected each spring and taken to city markets by stagecoach and train, where they were served to 'discerning' rich diners. The eating of these eggs contributed to a huge decline in numbers. Adult birds were also killed in vast numbers to be served up as 'Plover Pie' amongst other dishes. In Mrs Beeton's *Household Management*, she suggests that in the mid-nineteenth century the London market was 'sometimes so much gutted with them that they are sold very cheap'.

I well remember that back in my childhood days these beautiful birds were a common sight but alas, even though direct persecution may have ended and consequently numbers had bounced back, Lapwings were not able to defend themselves against changes in agricultural landscape, including the loss of mixed pasture and arable farms, increased agrochemical use and the switch from spring to autumn sowing of cereals. Their numbers have, again, declined hugely. However, the scale of the decline is partly masked by an influx of continental birds during winter and, whilst not common around this area, it is a real treat to witness large groups of Lapwings moving in perfect unison across winter countryside elsewhere.

On April 3rd, we were delighted to see Grey Wagtails back feeding on the lawn. These birds have the longest tail of the three species (Grey, Yellow and Pied) and is

the only species with flesh-coloured, not black, legs. They breed mostly along fast-flowing rivers and streams but also along slower or still water, always fresh. During the breeding season the male Grey Wagtail sports a smart black bib and its cheeks are sharply defined above and below, by a white eyebrow and white moustache respectively. Because of its very long tail, the Grey Wagtail seems to have the most vigorous dipping, bounding flight of the wagtails.

All Wagtails feed on insects and other small invertebrates, using three main techniques.

1. Flycatching, in which the bird catches airborne insects in short aerial sallies.
2. Picking, in which small morsels are literally picked from the ground as the bird walks along.
3. Run-picking, in which the wagtail sees some prey and darts after it at a run (however the Grey Wagtail does not use this manoeuvre).

When breeding is over, Yellow Wagtails (which we don't get up here and are the only exclusive summer visitor of the three) depart south to Africa to spend the winter there. The other two species stay with us, although they may journey some distance from their breeding sites. Grey Wagtails in particular, become much more common in lowland areas (*Birds of Britain & Ireland. Couzens*).

In previous Nature Notes, I have quite often referred to the mimicking abilities of various birds as they imitate other species' calls and everyday sounds. Having mentioned Bullfinches in last month's notes, I thought I would draw your attention to a link featuring a recording of this particular species, that I came across recently. Unfortunately, the bird in the recording is in captivity but what you will hear is quite remarkable (bbc.in/2imPRAu). The extract is taken from an episode in a series called 'The Life Scientific', first broadcast in October 2017.

Finally, on the bird front, on April 9th we had 5 Crossbills passing through the garden. They were feeding in our Scots Pines and the two male birds were in absolutely stunning breeding colours. I was first alerted to their presence by their calls and we watched them for about five minutes before they moved on.

On March 21st, Hilary Post called to report seeing a Red Squirrel feeding in their garden in the early morning and it seems that this individual has now become a regular visitor to their property in Craig. That's great news and there continue to be regular sightings of Red Squirrels in and around the local release areas but I have yet to see one. I've just not been in the right place at the right time – yet.

Pipistrelle Bats have been around and about the village for some time now, having emerged from hibernation and I know that we have some roosting in our eaves. Books will tell you that adult females gather in maternity roosts in late May to early June to give birth and rear their babies. Adult males usually live alone or in small groups in cooler sites. In late summer, males set up territories around a mating roost, to which they attract females. Maternity roosts may comprise 100 to 200 or more adult females and these roosts begin to break up as soon as the young start to fly. I have to say that I find watching bats feeding over the garden quite mesmerising. I wish that I could still hear them but needless to say, that ability disappeared some time ago!

"If we had no winter, spring would not be so pleasant".

Oh, how very true. What a lovely time of year this is.

Happy listening, looking and watching.

HATTY ARTHUR
Bank House
01520 722551
hattyarthur@me.com





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WEATHER RECORD - SLUMBAY

MARCH 2018

Date:	Max Temp in oC	Min Temp in oC	Rainfall in inches
1	1.20	-1.20	-----
2	1.80	-0.30	-----
3	3.80	0.80	-----
4	2.80	1.20	-----
5	5.00	2.40	-----
6	3.90	0.10	0.04
7	6.90	0.60	0.03
8	6.60	0.60	0.12
9	7.60	-0.90	0.04
10	6.60	1.70	0.29
11	10.80	1.70	-----
12	11.10	2.90	0.05
13	9.80	1.90	0.01
14	11.20	6.80	-----
15	9.80	5.80	-----
16	8.10	1.70	-----
17	5.20	-1.30	-----
18	5.10	-1.70	-----
19	9.70	-4.30	-----
20	8.10	-1.20	0.09
21	8.70	5.50	1.11
22	8.60	5.80	0.06
23	7.80	1.90	0.31
24	8.80	3.20	0.19
25	9.10	2.10	0.04
26	10.90	3.10	0.14
27	8.00	1.80	0.64
28	8.80	-2.40	0.03
29	10.40	-1.30	0.03
30	7.90	1.80	-----
31	7.30	-4.30	-----
TOTAL	MARCH	2018	3.22
RUNNING	TOTAL	2018	18.94
TOTAL	MARCH	2017	5.94
RUNNING	TOTAL	2017	17.93

Strathcarron Project

supporting the Howard Doris Centre



One of the highlights over Easter was the wonderful exhibition of colourful artworks from Lochcarron Primary School pupils. The imaginative pictures brought smiles to many faces.

A wee note about Respite...

If you are cared for, care for someone or know another person in need of occasional care, would you/they benefit from a well-deserved short break? The reality is that we all need a **rest** from time to time.

The *Lochside Suite* is our **respite** facility at the Howard Doris Centre. It's a spacious and well-appointed single bed-sitting room with en-suite facilities. All meals are provided and you can make hot drinks in your room. **Care** is tailored to your specific needs.

Take time for yourself or get involved in the Centre's activities. The choice is yours.

Some people self-refer and pay for respite themselves (£390 per week). Others are referred by a health professional and funded by Social Work (with a proportion of the week's fee paid by the client). Either way, it's excellent value for money with no hidden costs.

For those who haven't been before and feel apprehensive, our staff are always considerate and approachable and will put you at ease straight away.

Phone us for more information (01520 722541) or ask your GP if s/he thinks it might help you.

What's on at the Howard Doris Centre in May?

May is **National Stroke Awareness Month**. It's important to know the signs and symptoms of a stroke. Check out the display in our foyer – throughout May – and learn how to act FAST to help someone!

Below you'll find our **weekly schedule of activities for May**. If you'd like further information, do give us a call (01520 722541), email carol_hdc@aol.co.uk or drop in to see us. Our regular weekly events are listed at the end.

Week beginning Monday 30 April:

Tuesday 1st

13:45 - Boccia Bowling (lounge)

Wednesday 2nd

11:30 - Pampered Palms (lounge)

Thursday 3rd

After lunch - Shopping in Kyle

Friday 4th

All day - Men's Shed (Bealach Café)

Week beginning Monday 7 May:

Monday 7th

11:30 - Poetry (library)

Tuesday 8th

11:30 - Singing for Fun (small lounge)

13:45 - Points of View (small lounge)

Wednesday 9th

13:45 - Bingo (Lounge)

Thursday 10th

After lunch - North Coast 50

Friday 11th

13:45 - Photography (lounge)

Week beginning Monday 14 May:

Monday 14th

11:30 - Tai Chi (dining room)

13:45 - Reiki (small lounge)

Tuesday 15th

13:45 - Royal Fashion Show (lounge)

Wednesday 16th

13:45 - Bridge the Years (lounge)

Thursday 17th

13:45 - *Stroke Awareness* talk (lounge)

Friday 18th

After lunch - clients' choice of activity

All day - Men's Shed (Bealach Café)

Week beginning Monday 21 May:

Monday 21st

10:30 to 15:00 - Gardening

Tuesday 22nd

11:30 - Singing for Fun (small lounge)

Wednesday 23rd

11:30 - Pampered Palms (lounge)

Thursday 24th

13:00 - Film Club (lounge – early lunch)

Friday 25th

13:45 - Photography (lounge)

Week beginning Monday 28 May:

Monday 28th

All day - Bingo Trip to Inverness

Tuesday 29th

11:30 - Fit as a Fiddle (small lounge)

Wednesday 30th

13:45 - Skittles (lounge)

Thursday 31st

13:45 - Bocchia Bowling (lounge)

Please don't forget our other regular weekly events – these are in addition to the specific activities listed above:

Mondays

13:30 - Bridge (library)

14:00 - Cross Stitch & Tapestry (lounge)

Tuesdays

14:00 - Knit & Natter (small lounge)

Wednesdays

14:00 - Quilting & Patchwork (dining room)

Fridays

11:00 - Getting IT Together class - for those annoying computer problems (lounge)

13:30 - Bridge (library)

Sundays

16:00 - Praise and Worship (lounge)

Strathcarron Project is a Scottish registered charitable company limited by guarantee Charity number: SC021024 Company number: SC142359 Registered office: Howard Doris Centre, Millbrae, Lochcarron, IV54 8YQ



Police News from the area.

PC Allan is concerned that lately there have been a few reported incidents of a young male calling at addresses in the village asking for money. PC Allan's advice is to report this matter to the police immediately and do not let any individual into your house or provide them with money if asked. The police need to be made aware of events like this so that they along with partner agencies can get help for people that may require it. A quick fix here and there is not the answer. PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 101.

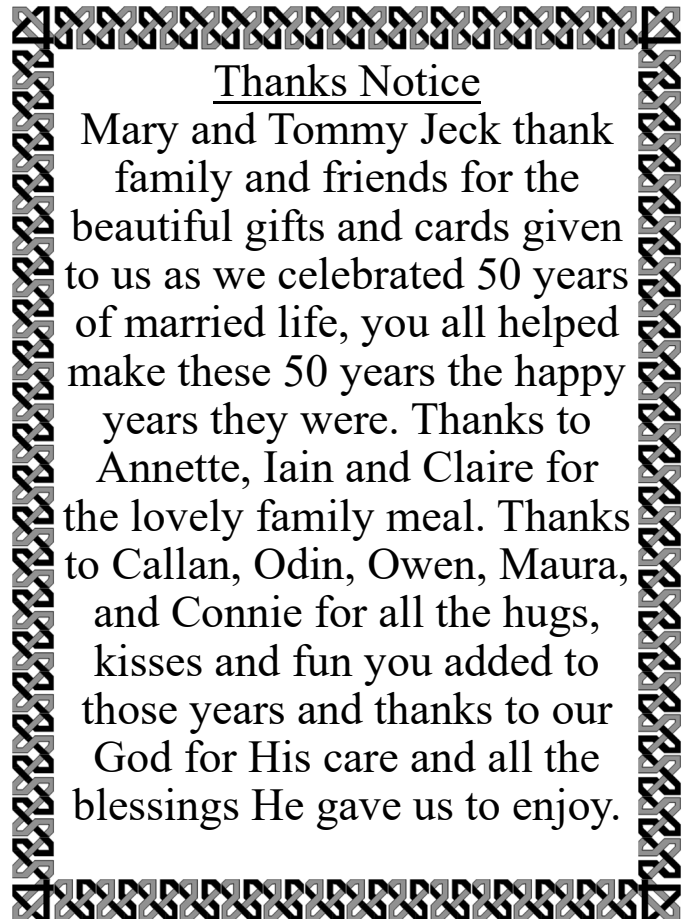
On the 18th March 2018 - A 19-year Male was arrested in the village and is subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal for disorderly conduct and possession of a controlled drug.

On the 20th March 2018 following police contact two 19-year-old males have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal following controlled drugs being found in a house in Lochcarron.

On the evening of the 30th March a male was assaulted in the village. Following enquiries, a 42-year-old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On the 5th April 2018 following a traffic stop a 39-year-old male from the village was arrested for the offence of Drink Driving and driving a motor vehicle without a valid MOT. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following receipt of new information, police have been making enquiries into an incident of violent disorder involving a service bus to Applecross. Police are in the process of speaking to numerous witnesses and enquiries are still ongoing.



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BASED IN LOCHCARRON

Lochcarron Amateur Dramatic Society



On Easter Saturday, the Lochcarron Drama Club provided some excellent entertainment, and for the first time, they gave both a matinee and an evening performance.

The first play was *Little Box of Oblivion* by Stephen Bean ably directed by Pam Bright. Here a tight team of five individuals produced an amusing play, where a variety of scenarios regarding the key question of what a precious box contains, was offered to the audience. There is constant reference to a municipal warning delivered to every home, about possible terrorist attacks; it is this that feeds the ensuing story. In the light of recent events, this had added impact due to recent events down in Salisbury, so very topical.

The scene was set up by the arrival of Woman played by Pam Bright, who abandons a sealed box that must not be moved or shaken but fails to explain what is contained within. Thereafter Cool, played by Rita Sykes, sporting a CND badge and suitably hippy dungarees, and a laid-back approach remains studiously unconcerned about the contents; in contrast Neuro, played by Lorna Lory, then appears and proceeds to create fear about what may be within, suggesting that it might well be a bomb about to go off. Her increasing hysteria increases the nervous tension. This atmosphere is further increased by the arrival of Doom, ably played by Calum MacLennan, who affects a nonchalance about the possible imminent destruction of everyone by the presence of nerve gas, sarin. He proceeds to describe the possible outcome if it is released accidentally. Finally the atmosphere changes with the arrival of Dick, played by the enigmatic David Symes, as a more rational man attempting to find the right answer to the challenge that the box offers them all. He entertainingly stokes the stress shown by others by further questioning what the actual outcome might be and, in doing so, casts doubt on all their theories. Eventually Cool cracks under the increasing pressure, seizing the box and shaking it against all the Woman's requests. At which point the latter suddenly reappears and the denouement is clear once and for all, it was her tortoise that was sitting in the box, a real case of mistaken identity. Dave Black should also be acknowledged for his sound effects, not least the man falling from the window, as a significant change of pace at the conclusion of the play; a crucial part where an actual disaster plays out before their eyes producing a sharp contrast with all the hypothetical scenarios they have been projecting and hypothesizing

about.

The audience enjoyed the play's humour laughing as the mood changed each time a new member of the cast made their appearance. Given recent events, the serious underlying theme made more of an impact than it might normally have done and throughout the actors' performances created much amusement, with the individual actors making the most of the roles they had been offered. Special mention should be made of both Lorna and Calum who provided confident and convincing performances as the most recent new comers to the Lochcarron Drama Club.

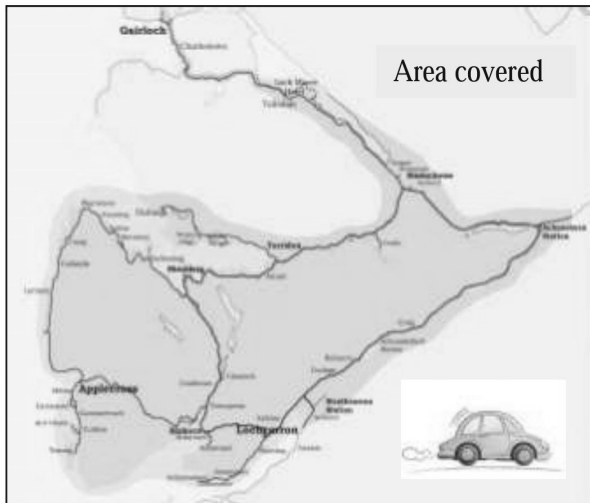
The second performance was "Tinkling on the piano" written by Frank Gibbons and directed by Morag MacRae, who should be congratulated on this her first solo director role. Sadly she could not be there for the performance due to a recent family bereavement. This play came 2nd in the South Wester Ross Festival held in Plockton and went on to represent Lochcarron at the Highland Divisional Finals held in Nairn. This play almost evolved into a farce played for maximum laughter and great panache by a team of enthusiasts. There seemed to be a particularly local connection given the convalescent home scenario.

A motley collection of recovering patients are seen behaving badly, led mainly by unreliable Reg, played by Peter Barr and encouraged by Clive, played by the comic Kenny Murray in the good company of fellow patients, Brenda played by Heather Sharp and Dorothy, played by Colleen Ferguson. Characterisation was clearly drawn and the comedy arose both from the individual interaction and the endless blaming of Snowy the cat for each unfortunate accident or event. The comedy built cumulatively with the sharp interaction between the different characters very well-achieved, the lonely Brenda and the aggressive Reg; Clive winding the others up and Dorothy with her more reasonable approach, while poor Nadine, the very stressed care assistant played by Amy Askham was also very good. The farce-like quality was emphasised by the frequent misunderstandings between the various participants. It was a very entertaining performance that was much enjoyed by the audience, reaching a crescendo at the end with the disagreeable Reg meeting his comeuppance, to great and noisy appreciation from the audience. Finally the patients were united in the face of authority and the entire show went down very well.

We should thank all the actors of the Lochcarron Drama Group and should not forget all the hard work carried out behind the scenes by the non-actors, which go into making these performances something the whole village can look forward to. The delicious sandwiches and the enjoyable raffle were also much appreciated.

South West Ross Community Car Scheme

Registered Scottish Charity, No: SC034461



Need transport locally? We can provide runs 7 days a week. We're here to help residents where public and/or private transport is not available or suitable. Shops, surgeries, dentist, hairdresser, Church, to visit friends or community events - if you're not sure just ask. Remember we are a community car scheme and it is open to all (over 16's) in the community.

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9.30am – 2.00pm, Monday to Friday

Fare 20p/mile (up to a max fare of £8.00 for journeys over 30 miles)

Like to help? Call Steve on 01445 791335 (office) for more information

S.W.R.C.C.S. is funded by



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Celebration of the life of
Nial Kieron Leith
31st May, 1973 Langholm –
2nd March, 2018 Arrina

Thank you to everyone who attended the services at Inverness and Applecross. Your support and affection were very important to the family. It was good to meet so many old friends at such a difficult time. The fact that so many people came to celebrate Nial's life and had so many positive things to say about him will stay with us.

On arriving home on the 18th of March from Applecross the first thing I heard was a blackbird singing in the back garden. The air was filled with the rich, slow, bold varied warble of the male bird. This song was a favourite of Nial's and remains a favourite of mine and will forever remind me of him.

Following the services in Inverness and Applecross I wanted to record a few words about what I thought was important to Nial and what made him special.

Nial was a passionate Scot. Not a bigot nor inward looking. He was outward looking, always pointing out what united us and at the same time celebrating difference and the richness this brought. What Nial was interested in was who you were and what you stood for. Important to him was whether you had integrity, were you loyal, did you look out for the less fortunate and would you face up to injustice. What sort of heart did you have and did you have a soul?

Not only were these the characteristics he so admired in others, they were the characteristics he aspired to and were the foundations upon which he built his own life.

He was a great family man. Nial and Hayley were the most perfect team possible providing mutual love and support. Of course Zella was the centre of their world. Already she is an articulate, imaginative and inquisitive wee girl. A testament to their ideals and love.

He was very practical always wanting to know how things worked and he certainly didn't mind getting his hands dirty. At the same time he was a very intelligent, articulate and a cultured man with wide and varied interests in music, literature and the arts. As a newly qualified graphic artist he had already produced high quality work for renowned artists and nationally regarded museums and art galleries. However, he wanted a different lifestyle. He was a passionate naturalist and committed environmentalist always taking the opportunity to engage with anyone and everyone, trying to persuade them of the interconnectedness of not only his immediate environment but also the wider world. I think that we all know that he also loved his fishing. Stephen Hawkins tells us to look up

into the skies and Nial certainly did that and frequently.

He remained a loyal friend. Yes, happy to celebrate happy times and successes but more importantly always there to support and advise you through the bad and difficult times. He was always there for you when you most needed him.

He was convivial and gregarious and along with Hayley, an open door policy existed at The New House where there was always a welcome for newcomers to the area or returning visitors alike. They loved to entertain and Nial was a very good cook and loved cooking for you. He was hospitable and provided you with a warm welcome; a meal was a gift that was freely given. He loved to catch up with the latest news from old visitors and new alike. Even if you were new to the area very quickly you would be welcomed as a friend.

Whilst he was sensible, calm and level headed and measured more often than not preferring conciliation to confrontation he was no soft touch. He could be resilient, robust and strong in the face of adversity or confronting injustice. He had an inner strength and as time passed came to know his limitations. Nevertheless, like the Good Samaritan he would not cross the road even if that were the easier course of action.

Nial was an established member of the Applecross Community and was quickly becoming recognised as an important and valued member of the Shieldaig Community as well. If he was working near the road people would stop to have a blether. All welcomed his infectious enthusiasm and energy. He was a real "people person".

Nial was a very special person. We know this because numerous people have told us how important he was to them and how he enhanced and changed their lives in a positive way.

You could be forgiven for thinking that Nial was at times brusque, terse, and forceful being occasionally argumentative and combative. He was aware of his shortcomings and limitations.

However, there is no doubt in my mind that Nial didn't just strive for but had integrity; he was a consistent and loyal friend and supporter; that he continued to support the underdog and would not turn a blind eye towards injustice. He had a kind heart and possessed a passionate soul.

The day after hearing our devastating news, his mother Joanna and I travelled up from Carlisle to Arrina, a journey we had first taken in 1970 followed later with Nial and then many subsequent times with Nial and Euan. The journey was both sad and yet happy as we recalled previous occasions. Joanna remembered that on hearing the news of Nial's death, someone said that a light had been switched off. During the first very dark hours that was a very good descrip-

tion. However as time has passed it is clear that the light has not gone out. It dimmed for a while and it has flickered, by God it has flickered. It has not gone out and it never will. Too many people have been touched by Nial and have benefited greatly from having had him in their lives.

I can say that during his life whilst I may have been disappointed for Nial, I was never disappointed with Nial.

One of the last jobs that Nial was involved with at Ben Damp Estate was the planting of three and a half thousand native trees. In one of my last conversations with him he said that he felt as though he was playing a small part in leaving a legacy for future generations. He was very proud of this and would have been prouder still to know that I was told that they are naming one of the woods he helped plant as "Nial's Wood".

The blackbird continues to sing and Nial remains with me. Not only am I proud to call him my son I'm privileged to have had him in my life. In common with many, I received much more from him than I gave.

He was the finest of men.

Philip Leith
6th April 2018

Kishorn Notes

We appear to be have been unusually lucky with the weather this Spring. We have enjoyed long dry, sunny spells albeit with a cold Easterly wind. I write from Spain where we are told it has rained incessantly since February 28th! It was very wet on our arrival, but now the sun shines so maybe Spring is catching up. England too has had a very wet grey couple of months, so for once the West coast of Scotland has been singled out for special weather confusing climate change further. This is the place to live!

The weather was kind for the first organised Sunday of activities on the Dell. It was very well attended and much enjoyed by both participants and organisers. Future days are planned, so be sure to keep an eye on the An Carrannach, local notice boards, and have a look at 'Kishorn on line' for the next fixed date. Don't miss the fun! Every body is welcome.

We send our sincere condolences to Tony Lyon whose wife Maureen passed away peacefully on April 13th. Maureen bore her illness so bravely with the help of her large and loving family. We send them all our deep sympathies too. Maureen will be especially missed by the gardeners in our community. Her knowledge and enthusiasm, so generously shared, was not just in the An Carrannach as the gardening correspondent, but also in her hard work in the garden at Howard Doris. Many a plant has been shared and divided amongst our gardeners from Maureen's own garden too. Her memory will live on in flower.

We have heard the cuckoo here in Spain but will he race us home?

Bealach Beag Cycle Sportive – Saturday 12th May 2018

The 43-mile Bealach Beag sportive takes place on Saturday 12th May.

Riders will leave Sheildaig between 10:30 and 11:00, following a route straight towards Tornapress, over the Bealach-na-Ba to Applecross and around the peninsula back to a finish in Sheildaig.

A road closure will be in place over the Bealach from 10.30 to 13.30. The Applecross peninsula road remains open throughout.

We are extremely grateful to all the local communities in which we host our sportives throughout the year. Without the support and involvement of the community the event would not be possible.

www.handsonesports.co.uk



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GARDENING NEWS

We all hope I'm sure that the winter weather is now behind us, and we can look forward to some warmth and May flowers. Having read Jan Overmeer's piece last month it seemed like a challenge for someone who loves flowers.

I am not a technical gardener but I do love my garden and feel chuffed when the garden comes back to life again. We watch closely as the garden awakes from the winter, this year has been hard for a lot of shrubs and perennials with many suffering from wind burn. At Cam-allt we are lucky to be sheltered from most winds going over the top of us, but the north-east has done some damage and I fear I have lost a clematis and a couple of shrubs. I always give plants the benefit of doubt and, wait a couple of months before calling it a day and digging them out.



This year my Snowdrops have doubled and lasted a lot longer along with the Daffodils, where in previous years they have been and gone by the middle of April.

There were flowers where last year there were none and I was just about to dig them out and re-plant them too.

What went right this year? Was it the snow and cold? Or did I give them all a feed last year? Answers please!!

May is the time that you should have hanging baskets and window boxes planted up in the greenhouse or a cold frame. I use a combination of bought plugs from a plant catalogue, for example Petunias, Lobelia, trailing or otherwise, and some seeds usually Nasturtium and Gypsophila, these should be ready to put out at the end of the month having hardened them off.



By now flower beds have been tidied, leaves rafted off, weeded, edges trimmed and a layer of well-rotted compost spread over the cleaned borders. A well run compost heap comes into its own, if possible they should be turned and perhaps even repositioned if you have room. We have several, three black plastic (as given out by the council some years ago) two bee hives and

two wooden slatted types. The wooden ones make the best compost I find, but they all work. We recycle all kitchen waste, but not meat, layering with cardboard, grass cuttings and most garden waste too. I have some pots over wintering in the greenhouse and the cold frame. At this time of year I have usually got some outside, but with this long spell of cold weather I am a bit late in doing my usual tidy up. Most have perennials and summer bulbs in them and are now in need of some TLC, remove about an inch or two of the top compost and replace with fresh mixed with a multipurpose feed and then they can be replanted with extra annuals. As I write we are having a lovely warm spell but I am still reluctant to put the pots out and will wait until the beginning of May.

Now is also the time to plant out any new perennials, or plant container grown trees and shrubs as the risk of frost should be over! Annuals can be sown directly and if we have a good warm summer you should be rewarded with a riot of colour. Roses should have some nice new shoots so be aware of aphids which can be squashed between your fingers or you can use washing up liquid in a spray before choosing to use chemicals. Still the Cuckoo snow to come??!!

Let's have someone else's take on gardening, come on all you gardeners.

By Jan Teago

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Nicholas Mark Masson has registered the deemed croft / grazing share known as and forming Lochcarron Village (Share) on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 14 December, 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4937.

Red Squirrel Reintroduction Project

The red squirrel is one of our most charismatic native animals – an iconic inhabitant of the woodlands that it helps to propagate as it goes about its business of collecting nuts and seeds. However, despite once being present across most of Great Britain, today it is only found in Scotland and at a handful of sites in England and Wales. Habitat loss, non-native grey squirrels and disease have decimated numbers and, although Scotland still holds a healthy population, red squirrels are missing from most of the northwest Highlands. There is an abundance of excellent habitat in the region but as it is separated from current red squirrel range by large areas of open ground, sadly, the species is unable to recolonise the northwest naturally.

At the charity Trees for Life we are running a three-year project to remedy this situation. By capturing small numbers of red squirrels from their strongholds around Inverness and moving them across to the west, we are creating a series of new populations that will grow to create new strongholds, providing a much-needed boost to this highly threatened species.



The squirrels are caught in humane traps before being given a health check to ensure they are fit for translocation. They are then placed in specially built nest boxes, lined with hay for warmth and provisioned with peanuts for food during the journey and a slice of apple for hydration.

Once at the release site the boxes are secured to trees and the squirrels allowed to exit in their own time. We provide



supplementary food for up to six months after release to enable the squirrels to settle easily into their new surroundings.

The project began in summer 2015 and so far we have created 6 new populations – in Shieldaig, Coulin, Plockton, Inverewe, Reraig and Attadale. All are thriving and we are seeing expansion throughout the available habitat, plus,



very excitingly, baby squirrels!

We'd like to say a big thank you to all of the estates and landowners that we have worked with on this inspiring project, and to all of the local people who have helped to look after the squirrels by helping with the feeding after release and through reporting sightings. These sightings reports are extremely useful as it enables us to monitor how far the squirrels are expanding from the release sites. So if you see a red squirrel anywhere in the northwest Highlands, especially near any of the locations mentioned above, please let me know - becky@treesforlife.org.uk



The current project is due to end this summer and we are currently sourcing funding for another three years of translocations. There are still many woodlands in the northwest that could support red squirrels and our aim is to return reds to as much of their former habitat as we can, creating multiple secure populations that are safe from threat of grey squirrels.

To learn more about the project you can watch this short film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYVqAj9s_Zw&feature=youtu.be

becky@treesforlife.org.uk

Becky Priestley – Wildlife Officer, Trees for Life

APPLECROSS INN

MAY @ THE INN

Sunday the 6th – LOCAL MUSICIANS – from 3pm-6pm in the bar

The local musicians from Lochcarron be coming this Sunday. They play a mix of Scottish traditional and popular tunes. Other musicians are welcome to join in. Normally a good afternoon of music, food, and drinks! All welcome.

Applecross Inn-Side Out

Our very popular shiny take away food truck is now open again, from 10am to 6pm and later on good weather days.

Serving our famous fish & chips, freshly made sandwiches, snacks, hot and cold drinks, and ice-creams from Applecross Ices. ***Come and enjoy the Inn on the other side!***

Bealach na ba

There will now be no daytime closures on the mountain pass. Following a hard-fought and difficult campaign by local businesses, with the help of Iain Blackford MSP, we have finally managed to stop the proposed daytime closures of the Bealach na ba. We are pleased to say that the road will be closed only overnight, creating much less disruption. We agreed on closures seven days a week, to speed up procedures. Negotiations about any improvements to broadband and about road repairs remain ongoing. The new proposal is: From the **11th June to the 21st July from 6pm to 7.30am.**

Applecross Brewing Company

We are very excited to have completed our first brew in the newly built Brewery at Kishorn yard. The Shareholders are very proud to be serving the first light hoppy trial session ale, **HOPPY BIRTH DAY** in honour of Phil Buckley, who helped make the dream come true and who recently celebrated his birthday just as we served our first pints. Phil has been involved at every stage of the new venture (as you may have heard!) Without Phil, and his dedication, for sure this project would never have come to reality with such precision and speed. There will be lots of thanks to come to many later on, and announcements, stories, and, of course, lots of beer. WATCH THIS SPACE!

Cycle Challenge Bealach Beag

The Bealach na ba road is closed both directions on **Saturday 12th May 10-30am to 1-30 pm**

This challenge is a clockwise circular route from Shieldaig,

From mid-day to 3pm you will encounter many cycles on the coast road from Applecross

We wish all competitors a safe and enjoyable event





Lochcarron Sailing Club News

Lochcarron sailing club has had a busy start to the season.

The new boat shed is now complete. Many thanks to all who contributed their skills, materials and time on the work party weekends. Particular

thanks to Steve Patch, who coordinated the whole project. The club now has an amazing workshop and storage space.

Wednesday night free sailing and dinghy racing are now under way. If you interested in joining in, please get in



touch with Steve 722 870 or Angela 722 989.

We have events planned on and off the water this spring, and these are listed below.

On the 16th June, the sailing club is holding a Coffee morning, Sale and Activities in conjunction with the 1st Lochalsh cubs. There will be teas, coffees, cakes, games, a water sports and boat equipment sale, and a chance to go out in a sailing dinghy, or the rowing skiff.

Events this Spring/Summer:

2nd June: RYA training session: Developing racing in clubs. A land-based session for instructors, coaches and interested volunteers.

10th June: Topper Tournament: All club members are welcome to come and sail the club topper dinghies in a series of fun races.

16th June: Coffee morning, Sale and Activities. Tea, Coffee, Home baking, Games, Kit sale, Try Sailing, Try Rowing

2nd - 6th July: Sailing Training week. RYA courses of all levels for adults and children.

Coffee Morning Kit sale:

Would you like to sell on your equipment?

If you have unwanted wetsuits, gloves, boots, water sports clothing, boats or boat parts you would like to sell, this is an ideal opportunity. Items can be given to a committee member by the 9th June. They need to be labelled with your name and a price. Money from sales, and any unsold items can be collected at the end of the morning. The sailing club will keep 10% of the sale price.



THE
HOWARD DORIS
CENTRE



A COMMUNITY CARE INITIATIVE

The Howard Doris Centre needs your help!

The Strathcarron project which runs the Howard Doris Centre is raising funds to cover future shortfalls in funding.

We need your help now to sustain this valuable community resource so please support us. Become a Friend of The Strathcarron Project with a regular donation by direct debit

If you have any other suggestions on how you could help, please let us know.

Why are we asking for your help?

Austerity has hit local councils and integrated NHS services hard. Any increases to NHS's funding won't be enough to cover our costs. Costs will begin to exceed income this year.

Please email

info@strathcarronproject.org or pick up a form at Howard Doris Centre reception.

More details are available on www.strathcarronproject.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

**News from Applecross and
Lochcarron Primary Schools
Naidheachdan bho Bun-sgoiltean
A'Chomraich agus Loch Carrainn**



**Understanding the
Importance of our
Values at Lochcarron
Primary School**



The core values around which we all base our lives are the foundations for a successful, productive and happy community.

Therefore, all the children and school staff at Lochcarron have spent valuable time looking firstly at what “values” actually mean to us all, secondly how they shape our behaviour, and thirdly how we arrive at them.

Through this positive and supportive process the whole school have arrived at five very powerful values, which we would like to see throughout every example of our daily interactions here.

Our five agreed core values are, therefore, as follows:



**KIND, CONFIDENT, CARING,
SUPPORTIVE, POSITIVE**

The children believe that these values should be demonstrated and worked on daily at school, but that they are also really important outside school, at home and within the community. With this in mind, all the children are being encouraged to discuss and demonstrate what these values will look like when they are acted upon both at school and at home.

**The Tee-Off Café
Lochcarron Golf
Club**



FROM MARCH

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6 DAYS A WEEK
9.30am to 4.00pm
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9.30am to 7.30pm
CLOSED SATURDAY**

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Find us at the Smithy Community Hub on the A896, 3km North of Lochcarron.

Alan & Becky look forward to meeting you.

May Opening times

Week commencing 1st: Tue 9am – 5pm, Wed 9am – 5pm, Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri Closed, Sat 9am – 5pm,

Week commencing 6th: Sun 10am – 4 pm, Mon 9am to 3pm, Tue Closed, Wed Closed, Thurs Closed, Fri Closed, Sat 9am – 5pm

Week commencing 13th: Sun 10am – 4pm, Mon 9am – 5pm, Tue 9am – 5pm, Wed 9am – 5pm, Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9am to 3pm, Sat: 9am – 5pm.

Week commencing 20th: Sun 10am – 4pm, Mon Closed, Tue Closed, Wed Closed, Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9am – 1pm Sat, Closed.

Week commencing 27th: Sun Closed, Mon 9am – 5pm, Tue 9am-5pm, Wed 9am – 5pm Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9am – 5pm, Sat 9am – 5pm.



What's been going on down at the Lochcarron Community Development Company?

The winter months have again been a very busy time and we have seen some significant strides forward at the Lochcarron Community Development Company and we are now poised for the exciting times ahead.

It hasn't all been plain sailing and we have also endured some setbacks during recent months.

As some of you may already know changes were required to the board of LCDC prompted by the decision of our Chair, Avril MacKenzie, to stand down as a director and not seek re-election. The board of LCDC, its members and volunteers would like to say a massive "Thank You" to Avril for all her hard work and commitment over many years and across all facets of LCDC.

In addition, Janet Price whose input has always been of great value to the board has also decided that, unfortunately due to work commitments, she is no longer able to dedicate the time to fulfil her role as a member of the LCDC board, and has decided also to stand down as a director.

Two new directors have been appointed to the LCDC board, Bart McFleat and Colin Sharp who together bring substantial engineering and business expertise to the board.

During the winter months a dedicated band of volunteers have been working hard to improve access and facilities within Kirkton Woodland, and a big thank you goes out to all who have taken part. Whilst on the subject of Kirkton Woodland, LCDC have now secured the purchase of a plot of land in Kirkton Gardens which will enable the construction of an access road into the woodland and supports our aim to provide sites for affordable housing, including self-build, within the site. The housing project is at the stage where an 'Expression of Interest' Form together with an application for Feasibility Funding to the Rural Housing Fund has been submitted, with options for a phased housing development on the land under LCDC's ownership. If the Feasibility Study funding is granted, the next stage involves an application to the Main Fund. If successful the estimated turnaround time for acceptance by the Main Fund would be September/October 2018. Highland Small Community Housing Trust will be working closely with us throughout this process.

Unfortunately our application for Lottery funding to relocate the West Highland Dairy to a new facility on the Smithy Hub site, although reaching the last 39 applications being considered nationally, failed to secure the necessary funds and therefore a 'plan b', a slightly less ambitious option is now being developed in conjunction with David and Cath Biss. This will have a much higher chance of success, enable us to maintain the traditional cheese makers craft for future generations and provide both a visitor attraction and centre of excellence to prospective artisan cheese makers world-wide.

Dates for our regular seasonal Producers' Markets are

already confirmed and following the first of this year's on Friday 27th April, will take place on the last Friday of each month from May to October 2018 between 11:00 and 15:00. We look forward to seeing everyone there and welcome some new stall holders as well as the ever popular regulars. Our regular kitchen guru Gill is out of action just now so there will be a reduced menu of soup sandwiches and delicious sweets for the time being.

In March we had a busy premier of the wonderful film that the local schoolchildren have all produced together with our Animateur Lynda and lots of other talented local helpers, the screen play was written by the children and the film was filmed and directed by them. It was inspired from the historical work the children were doing on Kirkton Woodland and is a poignant story about a family being cleared from the land. This will be available to purchase as a DVD. Please let us know if you'd like to be added to a pre-order list.

Lynda held another bush craft activity week during the Easter holidays which was as popular as ever. The children enjoyed a range of safe and healthy outdoor activities, including tree-planting, outdoor cooking, wildlife photography, games, shelter building, nature art and much more. These experiences are invaluable for our youngsters in building confidence, skills, friendships and experience. We are very lucky to have Lynda's energy, enthusiasm and skills to run these events. There will be a booklet produced based on the work that the children did during the week, with their artwork, photos and stories.



At The Smithy Hub, the popular iGallery, including the local volunteer run Visitor Information Point re-opens for the season on 30th April and new volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to join the rota to staff the desk to meet and greet visitors, please get in touch.

The observant amongst you will have noticed that in addition to our regular businesses, Kiki's Craft Corner and Vicky's Pop Up Pottery, we welcome the new venture of 'Lochcarron Candles' to the Smithy Hub. With a scented, colourful range of candles which are produced on the premises, this will enhance the Smithy visitor experience and encourage visitors to spend longer in this area. After a long cold winter it is lovely to see everything bursting back into life and busy again. Spring at the Smithy also means the beautiful 'Marie Curie Field of Hope' daffodils bloom which is always a welcome sight.

For all queries please contact us via infosmithyhub@gmail.com

The Ash Tree

The sound of a woodpecker hammering away at a nearby Ash tree, reminded me of the Firewood poem, and other uses for Ash wood.

Ash has been known since earliest times when it was regarded as a magic tree with healing properties and may even have been regarded as sacred. The Norse regarded it as The Tree of Life.

We are on the Northern boundary of its growth; the Rassal Ash Wood is well known but Ash also grows locally in other areas, not always appreciated by gardeners as it self-seeds prolifically.

The existence of the Ash is threatened by Ash Dieback disease, of which we are not aware locally, but it has been recorded on the East coast.

It is almost always the last tree to come into leaf and the first to shed its leaves. Deer and sheep both love the bark. Obviously, it has some special qualities they appreciate.

It would be a great loss if the ash tree were to disappear; it's such a useful tree.

It even helps to predict our weather pattern.

'The Ash before the Oak we are in for a soak
The Oak before the Ash we are in for a splash'.

The Firewood Poem
By Lacy Celia Congrove
Published 1930

Beech wood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year
Chestnut's only good they say
If for logs its laid away
Make a fire of elder tree
Death within your house will be
But Ash new or Ash old
Is fit for a Queen with a crown of gold.

Birch and Fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright but do not last
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould
E'en the very flames are cold
But Ash green or Ash brown
Is fit for a Queen with a golden crown

Poplar gives a bitter smoke
Fills your eyes and makes you choke
Apple wood will scent your room
Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom
Oaken logs if dry and old
Keep away the winter's cold
But Ash wet or Ash dry
A King shall warm his slippers by.

Helen Murchison

The Swing Cafe

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Applecross Hall May 2018

Sat 5 May 9PM - FeckNo

Pre-sale £10 / Door £12



FeckNo is a fully improvised show of folk-techno, all played live, in real time on the band's acoustic instruments... expect genuinely soulful rhythmic fiddle playing, expect techno beat

foot percussion, expect guitar funk madness and bass lines a plenty... All built in real time to suit the party!

Sat 19 May 9PM -

Greenfinch & In The Attic

Pre-sale £10 / Door £12



Greenfinch is a Glasgow-based five piece who perform folk-inflected songs built on a warm bed of intertwining guitars and ethereal vocals - in English and Gaelic.

In The Attic is a three-piece rock band from Plockton in the Highlands of Scotland, now based in Glasgow. Musically, In The Attic is loud rock with indie, blues and pop thrown in.

Pre-Sale Tickets

Buy your tickets now for only £10 each which includes an entry into the prize draw exclusively for pre-sale ticket holders. Tickets at the door £12.

**Available now at these fine venues
Applecross: Inn, Walled Garden, Junction, Photographic Gallery.
Bealach Cafe Tornapress, Waterside Cafe
Lochcarron, Plockton Shores**

**For more info go to
facebook.com/TheSwingCafe**

Lohcarron Skiff Update

The season has started and the weather now seems to be playing its part in tempting rowers back on to the water. Our first boat is looking very smart after winter maintenance with a fresh coat of paint and varnish and we're all keen to make up for some lost time over the winter.

Skiff number 2 is making great progress and we hope to be launching on the morning of Saturday 19th May. Please watch notice boards for further details.

We're delighted that Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Fund has again supported the build and enabled us to purchase some new hollow shafted oars in addition to a launching trolley and other safety equipment.



The build team headed up by Sue Robb and assisted by Rob Teago, John Robinson, John Murphy and many others has done a terrific job and are looking forward to seeing how the new boat will compare with the first. Will she be faster is the question we all want answered and we've not long to wait to find out – watch out for the time trials! This boat will also have a passenger seat in the bow so you can just come along to enjoy the scenery...

We have a very active season planned with two or three open rowing sessions each week. Last year over 40 people gave rowing a try and rowers had to wait their turn at each session. With two skiffs in the water that will change and we will also be able to have local racing.

It's not all about competition however as some longer distance rows are planned this year, as well as more relaxed days on the water. That said, we will be participating in many regattas as well as hosting our own in September – if you've never been to one then give it a try. There's usually a great party atmosphere and exciting competition to be enjoyed by surprisingly large crowds.

Two members attended a recent training weekend in Anstruther organised by the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association and will be passing on what they learnt at a training session at 7pm on Tuesday 1st May at Lochcarron Sailing Club. If you're at all tempted to have a go then please come along – this would be the best possible time to start. Contact Steven either by email steven.proudfoot@gmail.com or tel 01520 722870 (mob 07584 229405)



Finally, we held our first fundraising event on 14th April in the village hall with 'Ceilidh King' Fergie MacDonald. It was a sell out night and a great time had by all. Local musicians Mo and Joe Burton and Nick Reiter created the mood with drum, guitar and mandolin followed by wonderful display of piping and singing from Eilidh and Robert MacInnes. Fergie then got the dancing going and on it went till midnight.



Many thanks to everyone who supported us, it's greatly appreciated. Congratulations to our fundraising committee particularly Dee Gilks and the kitchen team, Kenny Murray as MC and auctioneer par excellence and Joanna MacKinnon for enticing Fergie back to Lochcarron. Can we make it an annual event? Watch this space...





Lohcarron-Camanachd

After making a winning start to the season, Lochcarron then hosted Lovat 2nds at the Battery Park on the 17th March. The visiting side made the stronger start to the game, forcing 'Ronnie' Cameron in the Lochcarron goal into a couple of good stops. As the game progressed Lochcarron started to create a few chances and on the 16th minute Lance McCuish made the breakthrough with a nice finish from a tight angle. The game remained close but no more goals were had in the half, the home side went in with the lead: Lochcarron 1, Lovat 0. In the second half Lochcarron were much the stronger side but were not clinical with their finishing. It wasn't till the 72nd minute they increased their lead, maybe somewhat luckily, when Liam Arnott's long-range effort from out wide found its way over the Lovat 'keeper's head and into the back of the net. No more goals were scored, final score: Lochcarron 2, Lovat 2nds 0.

On the 24th March we travelled to Castle Lead to face Caberfeidh 2nds. The game didn't get off to the best of starts for Lochcarron, they found themselves one down after only 8 minutes. A couple of missed clearances in the defence left the Cabers' forward with a tap in on the goal line. The score was soon back on level terms though, a quick attack caught the home side on the back foot and Angus Urquhart made sure it counted when he smashed home from close range in 14th minute. The rest of the game was quite a scrappy affair on a very heavy pitch, with no clear opportunities for either side, the score remained the same till the full-time whistle and a draw was probably a fair result: Caberfeidh 2nds 1, Lochcarron 1.

defence under increasing pressure, this paid off in the 75th minute when they pulled a goal back to make it 2-1. With the game nearing the final whistle, it looked like two points would be going back with the away side, but with the last hit of the game, in the 95th minute, the hosts equalised to make the final score Lochaber 2nds 2, Lochcarron 2.



Strathspey were the visitors to Lochcarron on the 14th April, which would turn out to be a game filled with goals. The first goal came after only 3 minutes, Niall Arnott made a great save only to be beaten by the rebound to give Strathspey the lead. Lochcarron soon got back into the game with two goals in two minutes, firstly from David Bauermeister, then Matthew Young. Young would find the net again in the 20th minute to make the score 3-1 to the home side. It was 4-1 only minutes later, a cross from Liam Arnott was turned into the net by the visiting 'keeper. Strathspey would be next on the score sheet, Daniel MacKay's desperate effort to clear the ball of the goal line resulted in an unfortunate own goal at the other end. Looking like the man of the match already, Young would complete his hat-trick inside the first half, to make the score, Lochcarron 5, Strathspey 2, at the break. Strathspey showed plenty of fight in the second half and found themselves right back in the match when they found the net twice in quick succession to make the score 5-4. In between goals, Angus Urquhart had to leave the pitch with a suspected broken thumb. The game looked to be heading for a tense finish, but the very impressive Young would find the net once again, to make the score 6-4. This seemed to dampen the away side's fight, Lochcarron would see out the remainder of a very exciting game and claim both points to go top equal of North Division 2.

Dates for your diary:
5th May – Fort William (H) Sutherland Cup
12th May – Strathglass (A)
19th May – Inverness (H)
2nd June – Kimallie (H)



Our fourth game of the season was a trip to Spean Bridge to take on Lochaber 2nds on the 31st March. The opening minutes of the game saw the home side take control, but very much against the run of play; it was the visitors who opened the scoring when Liam Arnott found the net after only 6 minutes. Around the 25-minute mark, Peter Mackenzie had to be replaced after receiving a nasty cut to his mouth, Douglas 'Dan' would take his place in the forward line. The first half would create plenty of opportunities at either end, but no goals were scored, half time score Lochaber 0, Lochcarron 1. Sean MacCuish took to the field just minutes into the second half and made an immediate impact, making it two nil after fifty minutes with a well taken half volley from the edge of the 'D'. Lochaber began to create chances and were putting the Lochcarron

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Gallery Newsletter

May 2018

In this issue

- Interview with Gill Wilson
- Nature as Art - Lynn Bennett-MacKenzie

Summer Season Exhibition "Night and Day"

You are warmly invited to join us on Wednesday 16 May for an
OPEN AFTERNOON from 2 - 4 pm to help celebrate new work and meet some of the
artists

With Story Teller and felt-maker Jane Burns
Refreshments
Everyone welcome

Interview with Gill Wilson, artist

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I have been married twice and have two grown up children. I come from a family of artists and work by my great, great grandfather, John Oxley, can be seen in Whitby Art Gallery. I've painted all my life but decided to read Social Studies (B.A.) at King's College, Durham University, rather than go to Art College. This means that I am mostly self-taught although I have attended numerous residential art courses in France and U.K. and did attend Leek College of Art to gain a GCSE in Art.

I do not work from photographs but either complete the whole painting outside or do a sketch in situ which I later use for the basis of a painting in the studio. I've taken part in many exhibitions, in France, Canada and Scotland, winning awards in three of them. I have also had solo exhibitions in Edinburgh and Aberfoyle. Other interests include gardening and walking when I can.

In my late teens I had an accident which resulted in significant back pain. Five years later, my life changed for ever when a dye called Myodil was injected in to my spine for x-ray purposes, and is still there. This dye was later found to be a nerve irritant causing constant severe pain and many other health issues which have dogged me for almost fifty years. This has obviously impacted the development of my art as I am limited in the amount of time I can spend painting and promoting one's art takes quite a lot of energy.

Where are you based? Do you have a studio?



I lived in Torridon and Achintraid for twenty two years where I was a member of WRAG and had a small studio/gallery in Achintraid. We moved south to Ardnamurchan in 2014 to be nearer to family and grandchildren. In addition to sharing a very large poly-tunnel with my daughter, I now have a little studio/gallery in Strontian which is getting known and doing well.

What inspires your work?

In two words, light and dramatic weather. I have always loved counterchange and hope my paintings reflect this, in the placing of bright yellow ochres against the dark blues of shadowed landscape. I also love wild skies and am constantly trying to capture their drama and relationship with the land. I truly believe that working outside gives a freshness and spontaneity to any painting. Ardnamurchan is much softer and gentler than Wester Ross and although it is lovely, I do miss the grandeur of the north.

What are you working on at the moment?

*I'm lucky to live near **Resipole Gallery** which displays work by very well known artists. I have just completed three "postcards" for an exhibition which is to be held there in May and which includes some local artists. I'm now trying to fill a space on the gallery wall after selling a large watercolour two days ago. This was one I completed on a bitterly cold day near Arisaig and I plan to go back to do another. I'm also trying to go to Canna to take some of my cards and a painting to the shop.*

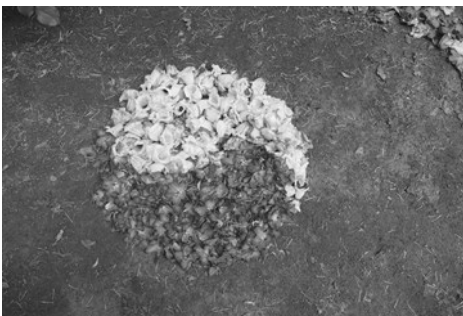
Apart from the Loch Torridon Gallery where can people find your work?

My work can be seen here in my studio/gallery on Longrigg, Strontian and also in the Strontian Hotel. I

have a page on **Facebook**. Occasionally I have work on display at Resipole Gallery. Gill Wilson has a number of pieces on display at the Loch Torridon Gallery.



'Nature as Art' by Lynn Bennett-MacKenzie



My childhood was spent in remote rural places where people were scarce but nature abounded; many years in this upbringing shapes my work as we too often rush by in our ever busy lives. Aims, achievements and deadlines keep us fearful of slowing down. The economy rules the headlines but a walk in nature grounds me. These spaces give you a healthy respect for the power of Mother Nature.

All too often as humans, we "separate" ourselves from what is around us, often aiming to overcome the elements and our surroundings, beat them into submission, control them for our own benefit. We conveniently overlook the fact that we are also part of environment and nature, and are made up of the same stuff. Every action has a reaction, be it positive or negative....

You may ask what is Nature Art? There have been many discussions about this but my perspective is that of being in a space, sensing and making some kind of connection. My work is about awareness, noticing surroundings, appreciating, taking the time to enjoy it. The wonder of noticing something in passing, interacting with it, creating something out of material that might be generally classed as debris or unimportant. Everything has its place and purpose, even the dreaded Scottish midgie!

Part of the process of creating nature artworks is often having to force myself to slow down, sit, observe, use my senses. It is also a meditative process as I get absorbed, work and switch off from the wider world...once begun, a work becomes a compulsion and once begun has to be completed, despite what may be going on around me.

The often-fleeting lifespan of a work is a reminder of the impermanence of our being, an echo of humanity – transience, uncaptured except digitally. The value is emotional, not monetary.

I often pick up materials to be used in a longer lasting work – pieces to be drawn on, glued, waxed, cast, rubbed from, painted with - whatever the material dictates and where ever my imagination takes me, but also aiming to capture the essence of the space from whence it came.

We are all creative beings and in these times when the environment is more important than ever, could more of us take time to stop, sense, react to the place we are in and create or appreciate in small ways? Art is for everyone and if we can make one person pause and see with fresh eyes – that does make a difference.



Lynn Bennett-MacKenzie has a number of pieces on display at the Loch Torridon Gallery. For more information, and to see more of her work, please visit her [website](http://www.lynnbmackartist.co.uk).

<http://www.lynnbmackartist.co.uk>

Summer

24 March – October 31st

Monday to Saturday

10am – 4pm

Closed Sunday

Address

Loch Torridon Community Centre

Torridon,

By Achnasheen

Ross-shire, IV22 2EZ

Contact Email: manager@lochtorridoncentre.co.uk

Tel: 01445 791 361

Website: www.lochtorridoncentre.co.uk

Community Councils' Minutes

Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Gearr-chunntais

LOHCARRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Monday 9th April 2018
7:30 pm Village Hall

Members Present:

Mrs Helen Murchison BEM (Chair), Mrs Emma McCallum (Secretary), Mr John Macpherson, Mr Alec Cormack, Ms Aileen Grant, Cdr Q Banting RN (Minute Sec)

Also Present:

Cllr Kate Stephen, Miss Siobhan Murray (SSF), Ms Janet Price (Ferguson Transport Kishorn), Mr Robert MacInnes, Mr David Key (Visitor Edinburgh CC)

Apologies:

Mr Roger Cundiff (Treasurer), PC Craig Allan

Approval of Minutes Monday 12th March 2018:

The minutes were agreed unanimously.

Matters Arising:

The Chair felt that there may still be some confusion as to the areas covered by the new **Out of Hours Health provision**. She has had this confirmed for our area as **Lochcarron, Shieldaig and Torridon**.

Q Banting asked why there had been no response from Mr Gilfinnan pursuant to the points raised by LCC during the meeting with him last month. Cllr Stephen assured the meeting that the Director was addressing issues and the issue of indemnity insurance for volunteers which he is currently working through with the "Glendale Project" on Skye. The Chair voiced the general concern that yet again there was a lack of communication from HC and in this case a simple acknowledgement of the points made to the Director would have been polite.

Chair's Report:

The Chair said she had called in the state of the **re-cycling centre outside the Roads Depot**. The bins were choked full and there was glass all over the ground not to mention some dumping. At this point several other Councillors said they too had called the Service number to complain. Q Banting said he had asked for a complaint reference number and had been told they were not issued for this complaint. Cllr Kate Stephen said there had been some difficulties with the service call centre and she would raise this. Helen Murchison went on to say that the bins had now been emptied but the solution to the lying broken glass seemed to be that it was swept under and to the back of the bins rather than tidied and removed!

Helen Murchison understood that there were to be closures forthcoming on the **Stromeferry By-pass**. Alec Cormack pointed out that these are published on the HC website and that the "rockface inspection" work starts on 16th April for 5 days. **The road will not be closed but there will be controlled passage under traffic management**. Cllr Stephen said that the work programmed for **September** is much more extensive and will involve **closure of the road** with, hopefully, vehicles diverted onto the rail with a road-on-rails system. More details will be published nearer the time.

A **letter has been received from LABDA** concerning the dreadful state of the roads particularly East of Glen Carron. It suggests signs as they have just put up at Garve, advising motorists of "**uneven road surfaces**". The Chair gave full support to this letter and will forward such to HC.

At this point the Chair invited Miss Siobhan Murray to give the **SSF (Kishorn) report**:

- She advised that the cages opposite the South Kishorn Farm are moored temporarily and will go out to sea shortly.
- The slip at the fish farm is subject to some legal issues and for the moment **USE BY THE PUBLIC IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**

- Miss Murray said that so far there had not been much interest in the new jobs created at SSF Kishorn. **A major**

issue was the lack of housing for workers moving into the area. SSF is particularly looking for anyone with long-term lets available. She said that the Company was concerned at the **lack of affordable housing in the area** and would be receptive to any suggestions made to them on the problem. Aileen Grant mentioned that there were a few houses up for sale on Main Street that the Company might buy. It was also suggested that a **letter from the Company** to the Housing Needs meeting/department would be appropriate.

Siobhan Murray also drew attention to the SSF Co's "**Heart of the Community Fund**" which has quarterly meetings to award **sizeable grants** in support of the local community. Alec Cormack suggested that an Ad. in An Carranach would be worthwhile. Robert MacInnes (*from the floor*) said that the Kishorn Playing Field Club is looking into this fund to provide playpark(s) in the area. Alec Cormack mentioned that the Howard Doris was looking for funding and Q Banting suggested that the Leisure Centre project might also be interested.

Helen Murchison then invited Ms Janet Price to give her **report from Kishorn Ports Ltd**. Ms Price referred to her email (see *Sec's report*) which Helen read out. In addition, Janet Price said the company were planning a number of **Open Days** and visits by local schools. Q Banting asked about the rumours that there were problems with the dock gate seals. Ms Price assured him that there were no problems and the work had just been routine maintenance.

The Chair concluded her report by advising that she believed the **house in Murray Sq.** which is being renovated, may shortly be completed and ready to live in.

Planning Applications:

The Community Council has been notified of the following planning applications:

LIST 3/4

- (26/3) Erection of extension to house, Dochart, Lochcarron. Mrs A Grant.

LIST 27/3 (NOTHING)

LIST 20/3

- (13/3) Erection of salmon hatchery/smolt unit building, Russel Burn Hatchery, Applecross. The Scottish Salmon Company.

LIST 13/3

- (7/3) Installation of a 15m telegraph pole accommodating 3no antenna and 2no 600mm transmission dishes. Land 845m NE of Russel Burn Hatchery, Applecross. EE Limited.

- (9/3) Erection of Agricultural building. Land 80m SW of Carron Lodge, Strathcarron. Mr D Ross (NB also on 20/3 List, dated 26/2)

- (2/3) Erection of house and installation of additional septic tank and soakaway to serve adjacent house (Dail), land 20m SW of Dail, Ardaneaskan. Mr D Rogers.

Treasurer's Report:

In his absence, the Secretary submitted the financial statement from the Treasurer where the current balances stand at:

Community Council: £1744.75

Community Fund: £6556.34

Secretary's Report:

Correspondence received:

- (email 2/4) **Citizen Rights Project** – Holding an event at Eden Court, Sat 14th April, 1200-1500, an info day on rights of EU nationals before and after Brexit. Event will include Q & A session, with immigration lawyers and experts on Brexit (!/?)

- (email 29/3) **Councillor Kate Stephen** – Update on **WR Visitor Shelters**. Disappointing news regarding recent tender return for shelters, which has come in more than double 80K budget. They had gone to 4 contractors (of 10 originally contacted) and only one returned. Unfortunately, no other submissions for comparison. Now must issue a

Applecross Community Council Meeting
Held at the Community Hall, Applecross

retender to a wider contractor list.

- (email 29/3) **Ms Janet Price (KPL)** Press release update for recent works at **Kishorn Port**. Secured supplementary funding from Scottish Government's Decommissioning Challenge Fund allowing extension of scope of works. With support also from HIE, KPL has embarked on further circa £1million upgrade to port infrastructure. Includes installation of major pumping system to ensure speedy dewatering of dry dock. Cathodic protection to sheet piled structures at the dock, installation of fendering to protect the huge flooding tubes from accidental impact. During 2017, an access ramp was blasted into the side of the dry dock, these extra funds will allow it to be permanently surfaced in concrete. Concrete caisson gates (cast in 1970s) will have minor repairs and new set of modified gate seals.

- (email 29/3) **Access to Banking Services in Highlands and Islands Survey** [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Access to Banking Residents](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Access%20to%20Banking%20Residents)

(NB can change last word for Businesses or Community Organisations for access to different survey types)

- (email 23/3) **Survey of the availability and purchase of alcohol in Highlands**
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/APAHIG18>

- (email 23/3) **HLC Polling Places and Districts** – Now concluded first part of the preliminary review of Polling Places and is now published. Proposed scheme will open for consultation until 10/12/18. [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections and voting/718/review of polling places](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections%20and%20voting/718/review%20of%20polling%20places)

- (email 18/3) **Kenny Maclean – Joint CC meeting** planned for 17 May @ 6.30pm, max of 3 CC members per CC. Some officials in attendance to discuss roads and broadband.

- (email 13/3) **Antonia Reed – GP out of hours service update** – confirmed day after last CC meeting, local cover area will be Lochcarron/Torridon, it will not include Applecross.

- (email 13/3) **Councillor Kate Stephen – Feedback** on points raised/concerns on walkabout
Lochcarron Community Fund update

- Form emailed to Emma Mackenzie (looking for funding for junior shinty club lessons; need replacement helmets)

- No entries received as yet for next round.

Police Feedback:

Outwith this meeting:

PC Craig Allan has forwarded "Police News" to the An Carranach for publication.

He has indicated he will be attending the Joint CC meeting in May.

Any Other Business

Cllr Stephen briefed that the **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service** are changing their policy on crewing dispositions. They will be much more flexible in sending the **right number of firemen appropriate to the callout**. She also said the SFRS are looking to **recruit permanent crew from among existing retained**. They are looking too for a good response to their consultation appeals.

Cllr Stephen drew the meeting's attention to an initiative by Ullapool CC to provide attractive **"Bin Shelters" to house bins** along the main street. These shelters come in several designs and assist greatly in preventing bins from being blown over. It was felt the "Adopt a Barrel" organisation might look at this initiative.

The Meeting Closed at 8:35 p.m.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 14th May 2018 at 7:30 pm Lochcarron Village Hall (Upper)

This will be the AGM followed by

Ordinary Meeting and Lochcarron Fund Applications

Members of the public are most welcome to attend Community Council Meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month.

MINUTES (Unapproved) Tuesday, 10 April 2018, 7.30pm
Present: Ruaridh Cameron, Ishbel Ferguson, Ewan Gillies, Jon Glover, Jackie Liuba, Mark Stewart.
Also present: Cllr. Kate Stephen and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Ali Brown, Sarah Paramor.

Minutes were approved unanimously

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer reported difficulty in obtaining a Vary Mandate but will continue to apply for one.

Actions from previous meeting:

Website:

Mark has been away but will look at the Community Council website before the next meeting.

Green Bin at Arduh:

Cllr. Stephen reported that Highland Council will not replace the large green bin because of the large amounts of building materials which were being deposited. They will supply a smaller green bin and may also supply a blue bin. It was pointed out that people at Ardbain were entitled to a bin for each property and Kate said that she would take this up with the Council.

Bealach:

The new plan is for work on the road to take place between the hours of 6pm and 7.30am, weekends included, and will begin on 11 June – 20 July.

Kate reported that Highland Council would now be able to complete the work needed on the road surface as planned and she will make a special mention of the importance of the white lines.

The compensation of £20,000 will still be paid and will be held by the Community Council in a separate pot. Kate recommended investigation of 'participatory funding projects' which could increase the value of this sum to quite a large extent and this will be discussed further at the next meeting. Ian Blackford has been thanked for his contribution to the campaign and has replied thanking the community for such a good attendance at the meeting which he felt sure had influenced the outcome.

It was suggested that perhaps some of the compensation sum could be used to help pay for the legal advice that had been obtained, but business representatives who were present felt that they should bear the loss as they were the ones who would benefit most from the new arrangements.

Fire beaters: This to be discussed again later.

Matters Arising:

Community Council:

The Role of the Community Council and its relationship to both the Community Company and the new Applecross Forum was discussed briefly but it was decided to wait for the two absent members to be present for a full discussion to take place.

Fire Service:

Kate reported that Applecross is to get a new Fire Appliance and that there are new rules regarding minimum number of fire-fighters necessary for emergency call-outs. She also spoke of the possibility of a full-time post.

Play Area Fence:

This seems to be being replaced by the Fire Service.

Gorse Removal:

Concern has been expressed at the extent of the removal of an important ecologically important feature of the estate – perhaps this would be a good subject for discussion at the next Forum.

Unrestrained Dogs:

Visitors should be made aware of the danger to sheep of dogs being allowed to run around without leads, especially at lambing time. The possibility of a small leaflet which can be made available at business premises will be investigated.

Community Council / Forum Noticeboard:

It was felt that a new noticeboard just for Council and Forum matters could be justified. The nature and position of the proposed board to be discussed.

Correspondence:

There was none.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 8 May which will begin with an A.G.M.

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend these meetings. If you would like to add any items to the agenda please contact the Secretary by the Friday before the meeting.

Email: info@applecrosscommunitycouncil.org.uk.

Minutes (Draft) of Shildaig Community Council Tuesday 3rd April 2018 Shildaig Village Hall 7.30 pm

Members Present: Kalie Wilkinson (Chair), Lisa Fraser (Treasurer), Susan Holmes, Tom Tindall, Viv MacLennan, Cllr. Kate Stephen, Sarah Wedgwood (for part of the meeting)

Apologies: Claire Munday, Duncan Carmichael

Approval of Minutes from last meeting – 6/2/18

Matters arising:

Kate reported there was still no date for the switching of village street lights to LED lanterns.

The requested police monitoring of speeding vehicles & traffic calming measures are to be redone in July on the back road of the village. Due to a lack of communication within the police dept. previous monitoring systems had been inadvertently installed on the main village street in Autumn, out-with the busiest season.

The recent roads meetings with HC officials was discussed. Kate strongly advised that it was imperative ALL members of the public continually reported road conditions, speeding incidents, dangerous situations etc with photographic evidence where possible as HC need significant data to act. The purchase of 30mph speed stickers for members of the public to display on their own roadside properties/wheelie bins was considered as was the installation of flashing radar speed signs.

The state of the roads is to be raised at the joint ward 5 CC meeting in May and a date to be arranged for a roads meeting with CC's from Applecross, Lochcarron and Torridon/Kinlochewe in the near future.

Kalie attended meeting in Applecross on March 29th to discuss the Bealach closure, which is now happening in June. 3 km of the road are to be resurfaced /re skimmed and barriers repaired during the road closure. Emergency access will be available throughout.

Village Developments – Sarah Wedgwood SCIO

Sarah explained that Rory Dutton of the Scottish Community Development Centre would be coming to a meeting at 6pm on Friday 20th April in the Hall to discuss “a picture of the future” for the village. It was vital as many people as possible attended to express their views and hear what funding is available and what can be achieved by small communities. Projects in the pipeline, and to be further discussed, include the provision of affordable housing, control of the toilet block, development of the school house for community use and the refurbishment of the playpark. (Tina Macgregor has kindly offered to donate monies from her summer fundraiser to the playpark.) Sarah had also had preliminary talks with Hugh Tollemache about the possibility of community buyout of land on his estate if there was enough interest. It was felt that there was a very real need for a dedicated Community Development Officer to manage and develop these projects and to make the most use of the available monies & political will.

Closure of Toilets in area

Disgust was shown at HC's decision regarding the closure of public toilets in the area, particularly at the onset of the tourist season. It was suggested maybe it was time HC lobbied the government about the inequity of council tax payments for holiday homes to help pay for these essential services.

Broadband on the Coast Road

Kalie had attended a meeting in Applecross with Ian Blackford MP about the potential and need to link coast road settlements to the fibre optic cable from Sand to give Broadband coverage and to fulfil R100 promises. The issue seems to be finding a supplier who will spend the money needed to connect & maintain the fibres for such a relatively small number of houses in each community. The potential

remains & pressure to connect needs to be ongoing.

Resilience Plan – SSE Community Funding

Duncan had been to a community resilience conference in Edinburgh & in his absence he will report back at the next meeting. Currently the defibrillator is the only purchase to have been made from the funds. Tom to organise purchase of other items for village use such as first aid kits, gas stoves, head torches etc & to liaise with Lisa & Susan. There was discussion about shared expenses with SCIO for the shed/ electricity etc

Lisa advised the CC a/c stood at £10,734.02 (£8,500 is ring fenced for community resilience spending)

Planning

No new applications to report.

Management of Schools Phase 2

Kate advised that following a consultation process, local communities were not in favour of a suggested 3-18 campus in Gairloch but would prefer the status quo to remain with one HT for Gairloch, Kinlochewe & Shildaig Primary Schools. The headteacher secondment that has been in place for the High School ends this summer and the post will be advertised.

Correspondence

CC budgets to be halved – down to £350.00 pa

Ward 5 joint CC meeting 17th May – Lochcarron

Review of Polling Places – no expected changes for Shildaig

Gordon Drysdale – school sign – Kate confirmed it had been approved for installation

Gordon Drysdale – removal of large green bin at public toilets. Kalie to photograph current situation which shows one bin is inadequate & to report to HC as a matter of urgency

Gordon Drysdale – cable laying on coast road, re-tarring of people's driveways has not been carried out yet. Kalie has informed SSE of this.

Scottish Fire & Rescue consultation – firefighters roles to be re-defined to include first responder duties

Info received about Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund
Impact of Bank Closures Survey

AOB

Kalie reported that Duncan & Alice MacLennan have kindly donated the use of their croft for a community growing/polytunnel/allotment area. Meeting to be held 11am Sunday 8th April to plan.

Parking at Nanny's – the double yellow lines on the road to indicate no parking on the corner have not been done. To be followed up.

Grass cutting – Kate informed the meeting that HC grass cutting policy has been changed & the bank between Nanny's & Rivendell will not be cut as it is too steep! Gradients of 30 degrees or more are deemed unsafe. It was suggested we could cut it ourselves or plant with wildflowers. Any suggestions welcome.

Campsite planning has been approved. An application for a temporary licence to allow opening of the ground for camping for this year has been refused by HC. Therefore, due to legal advice and implications regarding public liability the gates will unfortunately need to remain closed for this summer. They will be opened for Celtman weekend with the organisers themselves assuming full public liability responsibilities.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 1st May 7.30 pm

Munlochy Animal Aid

A big thank you to everyone who helped, supported or contributed to the Coffee Morning at the Tee Off Café, Lochcarron in aid of M.A.A.

Thanks to helpers Chrissie and Pam; Sharon and Morag for the catering and Dave on the door. Also to Lochcarron Weavers, the Spar Shop and individuals who donated prizes. A sum of £601.91 was raised.

Munlochy Animal Aid is our local animal rescue and is run by Iona Nicol, based at Woodend, North Kessock, Inverness. There are dogs, cats and sometimes other animals always looking for permanent caring homes.

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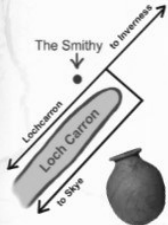
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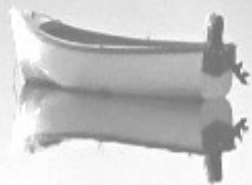
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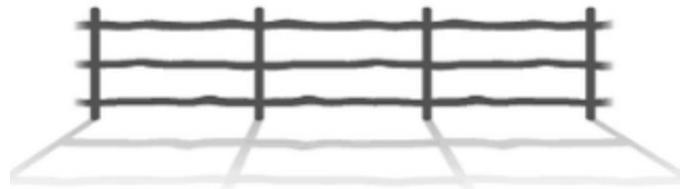
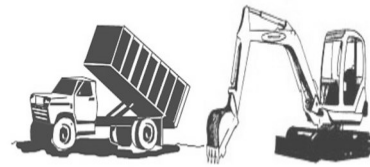
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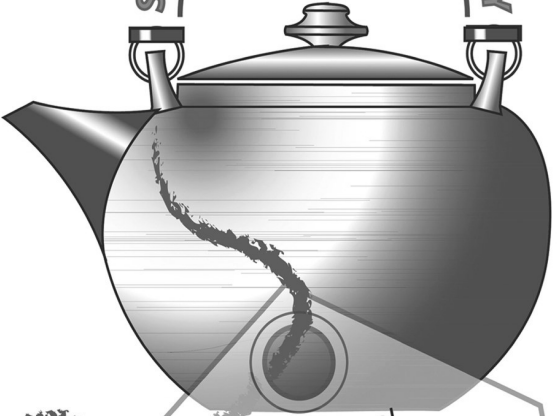
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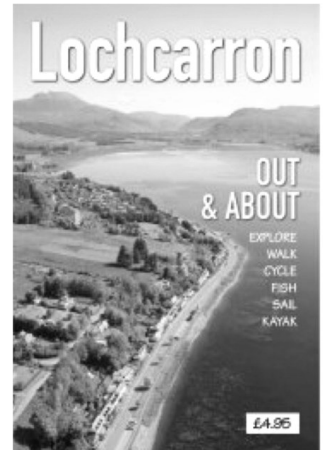
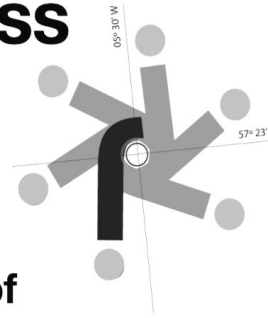
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Pre-Lambing advice for dealing with livestock worrying

If a dog worries livestock on any agricultural land then the owner and, if different the person in charge, is guilty of a criminal offence.

The legislation relating to this is contained in the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and "worrying" is defined as:

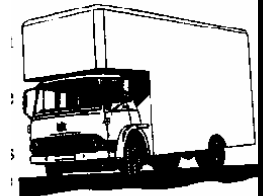
- Attacking livestock
- Chasing livestock in such a way as may reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering to the livestock or abortion or diminution in produce.
- Being at large, not otherwise under close control or on a lead, in a field or enclosure where there are sheep.

To protect the livestock, the farmer has the right to kill the offending dog. Additionally, under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, the owner and the person in charge of a dog can be charged with an offence and if convicted be fined up to £1000 and made to pay a compensation order. The Local Authority can also apply for an order to have the dog destroyed.

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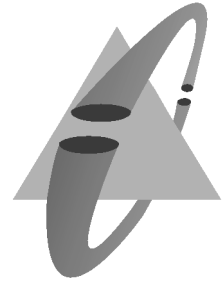
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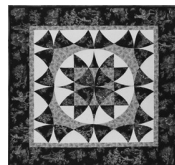
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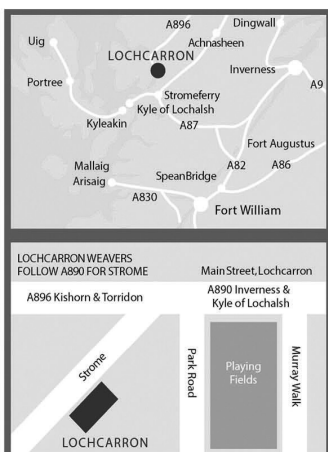


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LIVE MUSIC AT THE TORRIDON INN

CHRIS GRANT
FRIDAY 4TH MAY

JONO
FRIDAY 11TH MAY

ALAN FREW
FRIDAY 18TH MAY

CAROLINE TRUSLOVE
FRIDAY 25TH MAY



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Loch Carron Marine Protected Area

Drop-in sessions

Come along and find out more about Scotland's largest flame shell bed and the Loch Carron Marine Protected Area that will help safeguard its future.

Lochcarron Village Hall, 22 May, 2-8pm

Plockton Village Hall, 23 May, 2-8pm

www.nature.scot/loch-carron-possible-mpa



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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