

LAGGAN MATTERS

Neoni as leith an t-sluaigh, gun aorta an t-sluaigh

Contents

What's on in Laggan

Spring & Summer events ...

Top Tips for Cars

Keeping your car in check

Laggan Through The Lens

Alistair Todd shares his stunning photos

Laggan Heritage

The Legend Of Cathelus & Mrs Anne Grant of Laggan

Helping Hands

Lunches, Food Share Shed & Cosy Bags

Ardverikie Books

Two fabulous books for sale

And much much more ...



Welcome to Laggan Matters

'Nothing on behalf of the people without the agreement of the people'.

Welcome to our Spring edition of Laggan Matters. We are all looking forward to longer daylight hours and some spring-like weather ...

Thanks to Phil at Ardverikie for continuing to print hard copies for those unable to download electronic ones.

As always, we welcome your contributions as there wouldn't be a newsletter without them! Therefore please keep sending them in along with any ideas for articles to jillvn@aol.com or amandagallagher17@yahoo.com



Ardverikie Books For Sale

Ardverikie - A Castle in the Air



Ardverikie - A Castle in the Air

Hard back - £40

Paper back - £15

P & P £8

<https://ardverikie.com/books>

Ardverikie Estate Office
Kinloch Laggan
Newtonmore
PH20 1BX
01528 544300

Purchase both books on line or
...through the estate office.



Sixty Glorious Seasons

Hard back only - £25

P & P £8

The Author - Richard Sidgwick, worked as a chartered land agent in Lochaber and the wider Highlands for nearly forty years, before retiring in 2004. During that time, he was responsible for the management of many of the largest estates in the region and he has been chairman of The Ardverikie Estate Company since 2007.

Perhaps best-known today for its role in television and film, including programmes such as Monarch of the Glen, The Crown and Mrs Brown, Ardverikie House is an architectural extravagance of steeply sloping roofs, turrets and towers. It is also the centrepiece of an archetypal Victorian estate extending to 41,000 acres which in its heyday was more than three times that size.

It's a story of a Victorian patriarch, his ambitious building, planting and infrastructure projects, loyalty and generosity to family and employees and, overriding all, his passion for the romanticism and beauty of one of Britain's wildest regions.

Sixty Glorious Seasons - The Memoir of a Badenoch Stalker. 1883 - 1966

The sport of deer stalking developed during the early decades of the 19th Century and was at its zenith between 1880 and 1914. It was a product of the Victorian era and the spirit of many of its leading lights spilled over into the literature of the sport.

Finlay Mackintosh's memoir may lack the literary merit of the classics written by early exponents of the sport, but it shares the experiences of a lifetime of an observant and intelligent man with a wider world. It also sheds light on the childhood circumstances of a man who is still remembered in Badenoch.

Details of the proposal to build a pumped storage hydro electric scheme on Ardverikie Estate



GILKES ENERGY LTD. On behalf of Ardverikie Estate

Earba Storage - a Proposal to Build a Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Scheme

Gilkes Energy Limited is a UK based company specialising in the development, construction and operation of hydroelectric schemes. We have reached an agreement with Ardverikie Estate to develop a pumped storage hydro scheme within the estate. Details of the proposed scheme are given on the website we have set up for the project: www.earbastorage.co.uk



We are writing to you as a resident within 10km of the boundary of the proposed development to let you know that we will shortly be commencing the initial stages of the planning application process with the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government and the Highland Council. We are keen to let you know about the scheme and to get your feedback on it before we make a formal application for planning consent, which we expect will be in the autumn of this year.

If you would like to get in contact with us in the meantime, you can email us at info@gilkesenergy.com



Laggan, Newtonmore & Kingussie Churches

In December last year the Church of Scotland Trustees rejected the Presbytery Mission Plan that would keep Laggan and Insh churches open for the next five years. A request has been made to review this, and until this is concluded, we are not able to call a minister for Laggan, Newtonmore and Kingussie churches.

The General Trustees had strongly recommended that Laggan Church should '*be sold, let or otherwise disposed of*'. Whatever the outcome of the review it is important to stress that the life of the church itself will go on. Perhaps meeting elsewhere or in Laggan church if it is bought by a local development group as is happening elsewhere. We will keep you updated as things progress - though it may be slow!

In the meantime, some happier news, films are being shown every other Wednesday at 1.30pm in the church with refreshments provided. On the 15th of March it will be Despicable Me. We are not sure if they will continue beyond this date, but we will publicise it if they are. Admission is free.



Looking further ahead the church community picnic at Ardverikie beach is on Sunday July 30th.

Alison Armstrong

Session Clerk Laggan and Newtonmore

Helping Hands

The HH Team



Soup Lunches @ Laggan Community Hall

We had a great turn out for our first lunch of the year despite it being a very snowy day in January. Donations were used to buy food for the Food Share Shed.

Our next lunch is on Wednesday 22nd March 12 to 2pm for a bowl of soup, cheese scone and shortbread... we look forward to seeing you there.



Food Share Shed

This is continuing to be very popular and very handy if you find you have run out of something when the shops are closed ...

Helping Hands volunteers continue to check it regularly and will remove any unsuitable food, but it will not be locked and people are free to use it whenever and as often as they like.

Caberfeidh Horizons very kindly donated some 'Winter Cosy Bags' to the Shed and Community Hall as a thank you to the villagers for their support throughout the year.



Badenoch and Strathspey Food Hub and Table



B&S Food Hub

If you are in need of a food bag or other items such as toiletries and baby or pet items, for whatever reason, please get in touch using info below – all enquiries are confidential and you do not need to be on benefits or referred by an agency to access this support. We are here to help you, so please do not struggle on alone.

You can also visit a local food table in Aviemore, Kingussie or Grantown - full details and opening hours (including over holidays) are on our website, facebook or by contacting us as below

www.bsfoodhub.org.uk
info@bsfoodhub.org.uk
 Facebook: Badenoch & Strathspey Food Hub
 Tel. 07393718320

You can also contact Community ConnXions on 01479 810004 to request a food bag directly

What's on March, April, May, June & July 2023

Movie Afternoons Wednesday 15th March

Despicable Me 15th March

- 1.30pm
- Laggan Church
- Refreshments provided

Laggan Community Council Monday 20th March

Community Council meeting

- Monday 20th March
- 6.30pm in Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Helping Hands Wednesday 22nd March

Lunch: soup, cheese scone and shortbread

- 12 - 2pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Quiz Night Saturday 25th March

Quiz night for teams of 4

- £5 per person
- 7pm for 7.30pm start
- Bar and Stovies, raffle prizes
- Prize money for winning team
- Laggan Community Hall

Eater Services April

Easter Services

- To be confirmed ...

LAGGAN HERITAGE CONCERT Saturday 13th May

A 'thank you' concert to the descendants of Mrs Grant of Laggan for their generous contributions for the renovation of her memorial.

- Saturday 13th May
- Local artists including: Roger Sharp & Dr Margaret Bennet
- Extracts from 'Letters from the Mountains' read by Mary Stewart
- Free entry
- Stovies will be served
- Laggan Community Hall

Fred Macaulay WHAT (EVER) NEXT: AGAIN Friday June 16th

- Friday 16th June
- 8pm
- Tickets available (£18) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/inverness-shire/laggan-village-hall/fred-macaulay-what-ever-next-again/e-lnbbrp
- Laggan Community Hall

Village Fete Saturday 24th June

- Saturday 24th June
- 10-2pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Open Garden at Shanvall Saturday 22nd July to 31st August

Scotland's Garden Scheme (scotlandsgardens.org)

- 22nd July to 31st August
- Homemade Teas
- Shanvall, Glentruim
- By arrangement only - contact Beth Alder (beth.alder@yahoo.co.uk) or 01540 673213

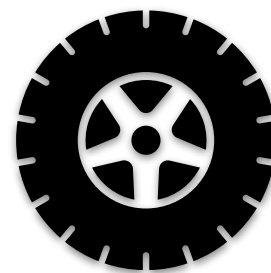
Community Picnic Sunday July 30th

- Sunday 30th July
- Time TBC
- Laggan Beach

Top Tips for Keeping Your Car In Check Nathan Grant

These tips are suitable for any time of the year ...

- ✦ Check your tyre pressures:- normally located on the inside of the passenger or drivers door pillar, sometimes inside your fuel filler cap, failing this your owner's manual.
- ✦ Check your tyre conditions:- l
 - look for any cuts
 - look for lumps or bulges in the sidewalls or tread-line
 - check for uneven tread wear
 - remember the minimum tyre depth is 1.6mm
- ✦ Check all your lights are working correctly
- ✦ Check and top up all your levels regularly, especially if travelling longer distances
- ✦ Stick to service plans whether it's just an engine service or a full service ... it would scare you to see some of the cars I've seen in poor/deadly condition due to lack of servicing/maintenance.



Remember cars make your life easier so look after them, if it wasn't for having your car, you would probably be walking wherever you plan to go ... take care of it and it will get you from A-B safely.

If in doubt pop into your local garage for a second opinion, it only takes a couple of minutes to check all levels and get back on the road again.

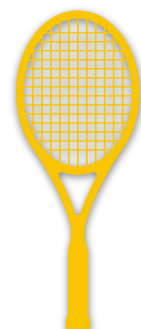
Laggan Community Hall is Available To Hire ...

The hall can be hired for:

- £10 per hour for the main hall and meeting room
- £15 per hour for the hall or meeting room with the use of the kitchen

The following are available to use:

- Badminton court - Table tennis table - Pool table



For more information or to book the hall contact Cathy Slimon at cathyslimon@hotmail.com

The Legend Of Cathelus

Graham Grant

Almost 150 years ago, Sapper James Archbold, Royal Engineers was in Drummin up the Glen, surveying the terrain for the 1st OS map. He interviewed local folk and compiled Name Books to record information on the names of every natural feature and man-made structure and heard the stories behind some of the names. In 3 entries he tells the story of Cathelus -----

“ The tradition told by the natives is - A certain Irish gentleman named Cathelus thought proper to make love to a daughter of one of the old Macphersons of Cluny. Cluny did not approve of it and gave his clan to understand that he did not. The lovers eloped and sought temporary Asylum in a cave in Creag Cathelus, which takes its name from him. [This is] a very large prominent Creag rising on the south side of the Speyon the south side of which is a deep precipitous defile running to a distance of about half a mile from East to West. On the North side and about half way down the declivity is a small cave formed by three large rocks, two upright and one forming the roof, the entrance to the cave is very narrow and well adapted for concealment. The ground was covered with snow at the time and their footprints led to their discovery by the clan. The lovers heard of their approach and fled, but were overtaken about a mile from the Creag, on the North side of the Spey where a standing stone now stands. Here they murdered Cathelus by cutting his heart out and they buried him beneath the stone. The Stone appears to have been about 6 feet high when first erected, but it has been broken in halves. The piece standing is about 3 feet in height and the fragment lies close beside the standing portion. I cannot trace any initials or other characters upon it. This occurred about 200 years ago ”

The legend continues with theories that -- 1) Cathelus was of a respected family which should have suggested a suitable husband to Cluny for his daughter. 2) Martin McAskil, shepherd Melgarve, who some of us remember, contended that Cathelus was later re-interred in St Kenneth's, KInlochlaggan in sanctified ground. 3) Dr Ian Richardson proposed that the standing stone really marks the site of an ancient battle !

Creag Cathelus and its defile (dearc) can be viewed from the road, south over the Spey halfway between Garva Bridge and Melgarve. The standing stone, Clach Cathelus, is below the old fank before Melgarve, down towards the river.



Creag Cathelus showing defile (dearc)



The Defile (dearc) size of cave



Clach Cathelus standing stone. Creag C behind, left

Laggan Through The lLens

Alistair To



Summer Snow Tunnel



Heading back to Moy after a day climbing

Photography has been a lifelong interest since I was given a Russian made SLR camera for my 16th birthday. In the 45 years since, a long line of cameras have seen action throughout Scotland & beyond with winter landscape & outdoor sports featuring in most of my images.



So often I set off intent on heading elsewhere taking for granted the scenery in & around Ballygowan, Strathmashie, Laggan & Garva Bridge. However, the light & the land frequently combine to create perfect Highland scenes which in an opportunistic way I've tried to capture at different times of the year.

Moonset above Cairn Liath & Dun da Lamhe

In recent years ski mountaineering has become a favourite activity and with sufficient snow the hills in the area provide excellent skiing terrain



Heading up Carn Dubh above Garvamore



The Moy Wall of Creag Meagaidh



For the non-mountaineer, more accessible locations abound with the lower hills often providing the best viewpoints. Particular favourites being Creag Dubh above Invertruim & the unnamed 622m summit lying immediately north of Inverpattack lodge which must give some of the best views seen anywhere in Scotland.

Angus Armstrong & Thistle

Behind the house, the seldom visited Monhadliath form a large remote barrier stretching all the way to the Slochd where a chink in the armour allows the A9 to continue north. The hills are often described as featureless, however they comprise a huge seldom visited wilderness with obscure corries & distant views where constantly changing light reveals hidden features.



Into the Monhadliath from Balgowan



Laggan also possesses some great locations for rock climbing, the best of which is positioned on the south face of Binnein Shuas at Moy. 200m of perfect rock attracts climbers from across Britain, many of whom head for the famous 'Ardverikie Wall' first climbed in 1967. For a reasonable climber the route is nowadays seen as a straightforward climb & it sees several hundred ascents each year.

Ardverikie Wall with Lochan na h-Earba behind

Arguably the mountain jewel in the crown is Creag Meagaidh & its satellite summits. One of the largest areas of high ground outside the Cairngorms, the mountain is a complex series of ridges, summits, corries & cliffs which I've walked, skied & climbed numerous routes since a first visit in 1984.



Tackling a new ice climb in
The Moy Coire

Everyone now carries a camera phone, however as time goes by it's the images of the area I've yet to capture which provides sufficient motivation to continue carrying the big camera.

Laggan Community Council

Colin Morgan Chair LCC

Key projects to progress since the last newsletter (Dec 2022) have been -

Community Action Plan - VABS provided a summary of the proposed priorities from the inputs and ideas provided from 87 members of the community. These have been reviewed and agreed by the sub-group looking at the plan. The final plan will be shared widely with the community, as well as supporting local and national agencies in the area. The Community Council will oversee progress of the established priorities and support the community groups and volunteers proposed to lead on a specific priority. Thanks again to everyone who submitted their response and came to the feedback sessions.

A related outcome will be a discussion with the SSE Community Investment team on the revised priorities and how the Community manages the SSE Community Benefit funds allocated to the Laggan Community in future years. This is essential as we need SSE agreement on how these funds are managed in future. The last round of Large Grant applications under the present scheme will close on 6th March with new grant arrangements to be discussed locally with SSE and ideally to be agreed by June 2023.

Gergask School - the school remains mothballed for the present school session (to end June 2023) and we have asked the Education Team at Highland Council to make parents of children wishing to attend Gergask primary, (and the Community Council) aware of any process and guidelines which would allow the school to re-open. Alternatively, if it is clear to Highland Council that the school is not to re-open, we have asked this to be determined proactively with the community, so that thoughts can be given to the future use of the school buildings and its land by the community.

A86/A889 - Road improvement discussions with Transport Scotland. At the last meeting (13th February) we continue to be disappointed that any improvements to the A889 remain delayed indefinitely for budgetary reasons. We will continue to press BEAR and Transport Scotland for a realistic time-line for widening the A889 in our area as well as a potential connection to the national cycling route N7. For the A86, a road safety and vehicle speed study will be conducted at the Laggan Village junction. This will provide evidence for any formal speed restriction and possible additional safety features at the junction. Requests for additional road safety signage on the A86 in the CreagDhu area have also been made.

Public Transport - A formal request was made in December 2022 to the Transport Dept of Highland council to extend the existing 140 service from Aviemore-Strathmashie-Aviemore (the school bus service) to become a daily service including weekends and school holidays and for a mid morning extension of the present 39 service which stops at Newtonmore. At the time of printing, we are still waiting for a response.

Available Affordable Housing - Increasing the housing stock locally remains a key issue and we understand that Laggan Community Housing expect to consult the community prior to Easter 2023 on present progress.

A reminder that the next Community Council elections will be held in November 2023, however there are vacancies now for residents to be co-opted on to the CC until then. Please help to spread the load by volunteering to become a member of the community council. Meeting dates for 2023 meetings will generally be on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1830 and details are posted to the www.laggan.com website and village notice board.

Comments on any matter can be sent at any time to our various e-mail contacts chairlcc@laggan.com secretarylcc@laggan.com or info@laggan.com

Where Is It?

Do you know where this photograph was taken?

Answer in the next issue

Photographed by Jill Warner within the Laggan Parish

If you would like to send one of your photos for this regular feature, please email it to jillvn@aol.com



Answer to last issue's photo:-

Solitary Tree along A889 - Jackie Ashworth



The Laggan Forest Trust Spring 2023

At the Wolfrax centre, we hope that the timber harvesting activities in the area of the Squirrel trail, will be completed by the end of March 2023 - with an undertaking by both FLS and the contractor to reinstate and re-open that trail in time for Easter. Following very direct feedback from the community and visitors, having the squirrel trail open again is a change of mind from FLS, so welcome news but in the meantime, all visitors to the trails and surrounding area are asked to take care during harvesting operations.

Felling Plans from FLS for the coming winter (October 2023) are being proposed for the Blackwood in an area to the west of the route up to Dun Da Lamh. Access to this area and the core walking paths to Feagour & Pattack Falls will be impacted. We are in discussion with FLS concerning the timings of the timber extraction proposing that their contractors avoid all weekends and school pick up and drop off times passing the Strathmashie Cottages.

Our other on-going projects are: 1) The "Connecting Laggan" project - this unfortunately is progressing slowly with Transport Scotland unwilling to support design proposals and requesting more road safety and re-alignment studies at the Laggan village junction for a potential junction re-design as well as a reduced speed limit.

2) The building of a BLUE mountain bike trail at the Laggan Wolfrax Centre. This is at the tender submission and assessment stage. All being well, the Trust hopes that the successful contractor will be able to start construction in May. This is one of the sportscotland legacy projects to increase participation in cycling in Scotland. Plans and maps for the revised trail centre will be on display in the Laggan Wolfrax Centre,

3) The Trust intends to run a Cycling Participation Programme with 4 local primary schools: Alvie, Kingussie, Newtonmore, and Gergask (when re-opened), aimed at introducing the children to off-road cycling and developing the necessary cycling skills for them (and perhaps their parents) to become competent riders. Support for this has also come from our local Highland Council Area Ward committee, to whom many thanks.

4) On-going discussions with Laggan Community Housing Ltd on their need to make changes to the water supply system that serves the former Forestry Cottages at Strathmashie using a bore hole on LFT land.

We expect the AGM of the Trust to be held in the Spring months of 2023 and, as ever, all members of the community will be able to attend. The charity's latest report and accounts will be available on line before the AGM, at the LFT website www.lagganforest.com

-
Colin Morgan, Chair LFT

Laggan Community Housing Ltd

The community co-operative owns 6 houses and is responsible for the water supply not only to our tenants but to the 4 home owners and the owner of the 2 holiday houses. In March 2022 Environmental Health tested the water and declared it was unfit for consumption and the water should be boiled. Environmental Health also made clear it was LCH's responsibility to ensure the water was fit for consumption.

To cut a long story short, while the residents boiled their water, HighWater and Laggan Community Housing decided to reconfigure the water system. One larger tank to be placed close to the bore hole and a second Plant Kiosk that holds the pump and various filters to be added. The water will then be pumped straight into the houses cutting out the offending tanks on the hill.

This new tank and kiosk and the required access will be sitting on Laggan Forest Trust land and we thank them for their help.

Thanks to Phil Lloyd Ardverikie Estate Manager the planning application for this improved water system has now been lodged and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a speedy approval.

Laggan Community Housing's Management Committee give their sincere thanks to our tenants and owners for their patience and understanding over the past 9 months.

Sheena Slimon Secretary Laggan Housing Committee Ltd.

PS For various reasons our proposed housing development is moving very slowly but we do hope to have a meeting with Gergask Avenue residents and the wider community before Easter.



SCOTLAND CYCLE REPAIR SCHEME

The Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme is Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered through Cycling UK. The scheme works with bike shops across the country to provide free bike repair and maintenance to those who need it most right now.

It can be difficult to pay for **essential** bike repairs, so if you need a helping hand to get your bike into shape, this scheme provides free repair and maintenance work up to the value of £50. (places are limited)

If you are interested contact; Aviemore Bikes (Mikes Bikes Aviemore) via email; info@aviemorebikes.co.uk & provide us with your name, contact details, make, model of bike and what you require to be done and we will be in touch.



Home Energy Scotland is here to help you have a warmer home

Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Energy Saving Trust to provide free, impartial energy advice and support to help you have a warmer home and save money on your energy bills. For more energy saving tips and help with staying warm, call us on 0808 808 2282, visit homeenergyscotland.org, or view the factsheet attached with this newsletter.

Smart ways to save energy

Here are some quick and easy ways you can waste less energy at home, reduce your bills and lower your carbon footprint too.

Kitchen

Always use the right sized pan for the job, and use the correct hob ring for each pan.



Keep the oven door shut as much as possible and make sure the glass door is clean so you can see what's going on.

Let warm foods cool down before putting them in the fridge.

Spin your clothes on the washing machine's highest spin cycle before putting them in the tumble dryer.

Washing clothes at 30 degrees rather than higher temperatures will save around 50% of the energy used each year. Modern washing powders and detergents work just as effectively at these temperatures.

Wait until you have a full load before putting on a wash.



Washing

Try to minimise unnecessary washing by hanging up clothes to air after using them. This way you can get the maximum use out of each item before needing to wash it.



Hallway

Fit draught excluders around the front door and over the letterbox and keyhole.

Putting a curtain over the front door helps keep the draughts out.

Get into the habit of closing all the doors to keep the heat in each room.



Bathroom

A quick shower will use less energy than taking a bath.

Invest in a shower timer to help you see how long you spend in the shower – shorter showers use less energy!

Power showers can easily use as much water as taking a bath – consider fitting an aerated or low-flow showerhead to cut down water use.

Check that your fan is only set for the time needed to clear condensation and smells from the bathroom.



Don't leave the tap running continuously while you brush your teeth, shave or wash your face. Fill the bath or just turn the tap on when you need that.

If you have a hot water tank, try to set your programmer to best match the times of day when you use hot water, so you're less likely to heat water when you don't need to.

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

energy saving trust

Net Zero Scotland
Scottish Government

LET'S DO NET ZERO



Save **£65** a year

Living room

Draw the curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

Don't leave things switched on or on standby when not in use, this could save around **£65** a year.

Turn off the television at the socket instead of leaving it on standby; you can buy mains controllers which do this by remote control.

Lighting

Replacing all bulbs in a typical home with LED equivalents would **reduce your lighting costs by 50% or £65 a year!**



Save **around £65** per year



Bedroom

Use a hot water bottle to warm the bed up, rather than an electric blanket.

Towel-dry your hair thoroughly to reduce use of your hairdryer.

Don't leave your phone charging all night – it should only need a couple of hours.

During winter, set the heating to switch off a while before you go to bed – that way it won't stay on unnecessarily once you're all tucked up.

Set your heating to come on a bit before you wake up but time it so that it switches off again before you leave.



Dining room

If you don't use the dining room often, make sure your radiator is set to the lowest setting.

Don't forget the room will heat up if you're having guests round.

Don't overdo the catering: wasted food makes a significant contribution towards carbon dioxide emissions and costs you money!

4 12 3 4 6



Children's bedrooms

A TV, laptop and games console will cost £35 altogether per year to run – but that could be higher if they are always left on when not in use.

Encourage your children to turn off equipment at the socket by making it easy to access the switch.

If your children need a night-light make sure it's a low energy bulb – the very lowest wattage should be enough.

If you are thinking about buying a new computer, a new laptop typically costs £15 less per year to run in energy than an old desktop computer (and takes up less room).

Save **£45** a year



Here to help

Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Energy Saving Trust to provide free, impartial energy advice.

For more energy saving tips and help with staying warm, call us on **0808 808 2282** or visit **homeenergyscotland.org**

Facebook: HomeEnergyScotland Instagram: @HomeEnergyScot Twitter: @HomeEnergyScot



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

AL203 07-1028 © October 2022

Energy Saving Trust Limited

Registered in England and Wales No. 25822794

*Based on replacing a 60W incandescent bulb with an LED.

Based on an average electricity price of 36p/kWh, Current as of October 2022.

This information is available in larger print, braille, or other languages on request.

Mrs Anne MacVicar Grant Of Laggan

Anne MacVicar was born in Glasgow in 1755. The daughter of a soldier who was serving in what was to become the United States, she spent her formative years near Albany with a Dutch family. She became fluent in Dutch and also in the Mohawk language, as she became friendly with the local natives. Madame (or Aunt Schuyler) noticed her enjoying 'Paradise Lost' when she was but 7 years old and hence took a great interest in her up-bringing. She said that she owed this lady a great debt as it was she who cultivated her mind.

Her father was appointed Barrack-master of Fort Augustus in 1773. It was here that Anne was to meet her husband-to-be, Rev. James Grant, who was the chaplain to the Fort. They married in 1779, coming over the Corryairick to stay in Laggan at Gaskbeg, which served as the Manse and the farm as the Glebe. She became a farmer as they had several hundred sheep, milking cows, pigs and horses, all of which went to the sheilings in the summer. The sheilings being in Corriebuie above the farm. Other letters mention her staff going to the oakwood, as they were building a new byre. A dance after the clipping was postponed because of rain. How her children were only to speak Gaelic until four years old. How the people round Fort George were more refined than Laggan folk, kind and considerate as they were.

They had twelve children. Her husband died suddenly in 1801 and is buried in the Laggan kirkyard along with three of their children. In fact only one of her children survived her, Peter. He it was who took on the task of publishing her letters to give his mother an income as there were no pensions in those days. Although, in fact, Walter Scott applied successfully to Government for a pension.

When Anne eventually arrived in Edinburgh, she moved within the literary circles and became friendly with Walter Scott. He got much of his material on the Highlands from her and when he came to arrange the historic visit of George IV to Edinburgh, all the Clan Chiefs were instructed to wear their tartan. This all within living memory of Butcher Cumberland and the '45.

Anne spent the last years of her life tutoring young ladies in her home. She was crippled by a fall and died in 1838. She is buried in St Cuthbert's churchyard at the West-end of Princes Street gardens along with the remainder of her children.

Mrs Anne Grant of Laggan

1755-1838



Campbell Slimon

Summary of Laggan Community Action Plan 2022

Karen Derrick VABS

Activity	Community Lead Partner Organisations	Status	Comments
Deliver walking & cycling paths in community area, including to Newtonmore	LFT CNPA THC TS Sustrans	Ongoing	
EV fast charging points	LCC CNPA: Liz Henderson THC		Part of larger capacity project across CNP
Priority: Public Toilets			
Ensure future of public toilets by bringing up to good standard internally	LCC		
Look at alternative to septic tank for waste treatment	LCH THC		
Invest here or elsewhere to cater for visitors / campervan waste discharge points	LCC CNPA THC Local estates		Look at other community examples
Priority: Energy Efficient Buildings			
Improve energy efficiency in: a) tenanted / community owned housing b) Village Hall through inspection/advice/installation	LCH LVH Energy Saving Trust CARES Home Energy Scotland		Advice roadshow in village
Priority: Improve village's visual appearance			
More benches and attractive planting	LCC Local businesses		
Clean up pond area and woods Make fencing safe	LCC LCH		Septic tank issue
Litter picks and more roadside rubbish bins	Village amenity gp THC BEAR Scotland?	Quick Win	Date to be confirmed for April meet up
Priority: Increase opportunities to attract tourism and business to local area			
Investment in serviced site for campervans, motorhomes, tents	Laggan marketing group CBP LFT		

Activity	Community Lead Partner Organisations	Status	Comments
Make more of a 'Welcome to Laggan' · replace dated brown signs · warning of goats on road	LCC TS THC		
Expansion of mountain biking facilities at Wolftrax	LFT FLS CNPA	Ongoing	
Priority: Active Travel			
Use Laggan Heritage archive as attraction for visitors to learn about area	LH Laggan Marketing group		
Priority: Strategy for local jobs and businesses			
Assistance for local businesses: provision of small business units	Laggan marketing group		
Develop a Business Development & Marketing Plan to promote Laggan	Laggan Marketing group CBP	High Priority	Review former Laggan marketing plans
Local wood fuel business	LFT		Establish demand Local entrepreneur to start up business
Priority: Sustainable community spaces, delivering for community needs			
Put together a community resilience plan	LCC SSEN VABS		
Make more of community facilities eg Village Hall, Wolftrax café, Church for: · Sport & exercise opportunities for all ages · Social & leisure activities	LVH LFT Laggan Church All village organisations		
Food larder / food exchange	Laggan Helping Hands LCC B&S Foodhub	Ongoing	
Priority: Sustainable public transport provision			
Connect to longer distance provision eg buses and trains	LCC THC		
Get around Laggan area without a car: on demand type service	LCC Community ConnXions		

Activity	Community Lead Partner Organisations	Status	Comments
Priority: Having affordable places to live			
Access to more community-owned affordable housing for local young people	LCH LCC CNPA / THC / Local Estates Communities Housing Trust		

LEGEND

- CBP Cairngorms Business Partnership
- CNPA Cairngorms National Park Authority
- FLS Forestry & Land Scotland
- HIE Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- LCC Laggan Community Council
- LCH Laggan Community Housing Ltd
- LFT Laggan Forest Trust
- LH Laggan Heritage
- LVH Laggan Village Hall
- THC The Highland Council
- TS Transport Scotland



Contacts Information

Church of Scotland

Contact: marythomson835@brinternet.com www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

Telephone 01540 661772

Community Website

www.laggan.com

Laggan Community Council

Contact: info@laggan.com chaircc@laggan.com secretarylcc@laggan.com or
treasurerlcc@laggan.com

Laggan Community Hall

Contact: cathyslimon@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone 01528 544309

Laggan Community Housing Ltd

Contact: sheena.feithbuidhe@icloud.com

Telephone: 01528 544722

Laggan Forest Trust

Contact: business@lagganforest.com

www.lagganforest.com

Telephone: 01528 544366

Laggan Heritage

Contact: info@lagganheritage.com