

LAGGAN MATTERS

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

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July to October 2024

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Welcome to Laggan Matters

‘Nothing on behalf of the people without the agreement of the people’.

Welcome to the summer/autumn edition of Laggan Matters...what a long, cold, wet & windy winter it has been!

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



Laggan Heritage: Repairs to Old Cluny's Monument

Valerie Macpherson and Pete Moore

In the autumn of 2021, the granite cross on the top of the monument to Old Cluny was struck by lightning. The strike was seen by people in the village and a subsequent visit to the site revealed that the top section, above the cross bar of the cross, had been sheared and had landed in four pieces on the east side.

The cairn commemorates Ewen Macpherson of Cluny (known as Old Cluny) Chief of Clan Macpherson who was born on 24th April 1804 and died on 11th January 1885. He is buried in the small graveyard below Cluny Castle.

Laggan Heritage was successful with an application to the SSE Stronelaig Windfarm fund to undertake repairs to the cross, but various delays ensued due to a high repair work load for the contractors. We finally arranged a date in early May, this year for the work to take place.

Cluny was married to Sarah Justina Davidson whose monument is on the opposite side of the strath, on the shoulder of Creag Dubh. The Sarah Justina cairn was restored by a partnership of Laggan Heritage and the Clan Macpherson back in 2020, again with funding from the SSE Stronlaig Windfarm Fund.

So on this blustery day in May, a stonemason from Masonry and Lime Ltd, came on site along with two climbers from Dynamic Abseiling Services, who provided safe, roped access for the team. Ross from NatureScot at Creag Meagaidh helped us with off-road uplift for all the materials and equipment. The Argo took the stone mason and 2 abseilers plus 2 ladders and all the hoists and paraphernalia up the hill while Pete and Valerie walked up.

One of the first tasks was to find the main piece of stone, which seemed to have been moved from where it had been carefully placed for safe-keeping. Eagle eyed Ross finally found it down the hill, near the broadband masts, so relief all round.

While the climbers established a secure anchor point at the top of the monument - which is surprisingly high when you start to think about working at the top of it! - the stone mason drilled the stone shard and glued a threaded bolt in place.



The stone was bagged and hauled up on a pulley system and the base of the cross carefully drilled, to receive the threaded bolt. Lots more glue was mixed and applied and the cross reformed.



By about 1pm the job was done and the argo was loaded up. After 10 minutes, one of the chains snapped so we found ourselves having to walk down carrying the ladders and all the kit which was quite a task as the ground is rough and the ladders and kit were cumbersome and heavy.

We all made it down and withdrew to the Coffee Shop for tea and chocolate cake and we were not disappointed. It was a great team effort and they really enjoyed the adventure.





Stronelairst Community Fund

Applications are invited from community groups serving the **Laggan** area.

If you have a project idea you wish to discuss please contact:

carol.masheter@sse.com

07721 443044

Closing date— 31st July 2024

For guidance and to apply visit

[https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/
community-fund-locations/great-britain/
stronelairst/](https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/stronelairst/)



Stronelairst & Dunmaglass Wind Farms Scholarship Fund is Open

**The Stronelairst & Dunmaglass Scholarship Fund support
individuals studying a STEM course at university.**

Awards of £5,000 towards a student loan.

For guidance and to apply visit

**[https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/scholarships-
and-skills-funds/](https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/scholarships-and-skills-funds/)**

Closing date for applications — 13th Sept 2024



For further information contact

carol.masheter@sse.com

07721 443044

Balgowan Postbox



No doubt most of us have seen the new siting of the postbox at the entrance to Balgowan making it so much easier and safer to post mail. Photo taken looking out onto the A86

Where Is it?

Do you know where the photograph below was taken? Answer in the next issue



Photographed by Trevor Warner within the Laggan Parish



Answer to last issue's photo:-

Corporal James Hendry's
Memorial beside Loch
Laggan on A86

Jackie Ashworth

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

Corporal James Hendry GC

Beside a lay-by on the left hand side of the A86 along Loch Laggan, lies a Memorial Cairn to a remarkable young man. In 1941 his tunnelling company of the Royal Canadian Engineers, constructed the hydro electric tunnel linking the River Spey, to the north, to Loch Laggan. There was a fire and explosion in a powder magazine at the mouth of the tunnel and James alerted others allowing some to take cover before himself attempting, unsuccessfully, to extinguish the fire.



James was posthumously awarded the George Cross - the medal given to mark acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger.



Words and photos taken from the memorial site: Jill Warner

Laggan Church

Sale of Laggan Church

From the time of St Kenneth in the 7th century, Laggan folk have worshipped at various sites. Since 1785, replacing a turf roofed structure below Blaragie, a church was built at 'Kirk Laggan', as that area became known, during the ministry of Rev James Grant, husband of the acclaimed author Anne Grant, best known for her 'Letters from the Mountains'. They tenanted the farm of Gaskbeg; the Glebe and then the Manse being set up some years later.

The church has had a couple of renovations over the years and now stands a simple yet very impressive place of worship. In the gallery, sat the lairds and families, Cluny facing the minister with Glentruim opposite, the pulpit so designed that the minister neither looked up nor down on the lairds.

The heating installed in the 1880's made it 'the most comfortable church in the North of Scotland'.

The organ funded by local subscription in 1912, was pumped manually before electricity arrived in 1956.

Rev David Stoddart initiated the renovation of 1985 when black varnish was stripped from pews and pillars, red carpets and the specially designed tiles made at Laggan Caoldair were laid.

Here folk have come to show and share their faith, receiving encouragement to show their Love all around. Here have been celebrated countless important family events - Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Laggan Parish is united with Newtonmore and recently linked with Kingussie. They co-operate happily together. A new minister will hopefully soon be appointed. His/her house, 'The Manse', is in Newtonmore.

Now due to demographics, depopulation, economics, minister shortage and decrease in numbers, the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland has decided that the Laggan Church building is surplus to requirements and must be closed 31/12/24. The church and access to it are now on the market at offers over £35,000.

The church could be bought for residential or business purposes or, as many local people have suggested, bought for Laggan Community benefit. It could be for a combination of all, or any, of these.

Depending on the outcome of the sale and the views of a new minister, the building might still be rented for special church services, weddings, funerals etc.

For further information see www.churchofscotland.org and look for properties for sale.

Graham Grant and Campbell Slimon

Laggan Church

It's a busy time at the moment, sad with the church now for sale, but exciting because interviews are happening for a new minister of Laggan and Newtonmore Church, linked with Kingussie. The annual picnic at Ardverikie is being 'rested' this year, but we will be having a church barbecue on Sunday 25th August in the village – details to follow.

It is disappointing that the building is for sale, but church life does not stop after worship on a Sunday morning, it keeps going all day every day. The expression of this has been seen in many ways locally with church and community bbq's, Helping Hands lunches and afternoon teas, afternoon and evening film events, community carol services and remembrance services at the memorial. Many people from within the church and wider community make these events happen as well as the Church of Scotland as an organisation, which provides insurance cover. Whatever happens to the building, these activities will continue.

Hopefully in the next edition of Laggan Matters we will have more definite information to share, but let's hope for a warm and peaceful summer.

Alison Armstrong

Session Clerk Laggan and Newtonmore Church



Laggan Helping Hands



We all enjoyed a lovely Easter Tea in March followed by a soup lunch in April and another afternoon tea in May.

The next soup lunch will be on Thursday 19th September 12-1.30pm and then we are holding a Bake Off on Sunday 20th October. More details can be found in the 'What's on' section.



As more and more folk are able to join us we will be holding all the lunches and teas in the main hall from now on. Thanks to everyone for coming along and supporting our events and we look forward to some more get togethers throughout 2024 ...

The money we raise supports:

- * Laggan's Defibrillators *Laggan Food Share Shed
- * Community Lunches & Teas *First Aid Training

Food Share Shed

We are delighted that the food shed continues to be well supported and folk are enjoying the books and DVD's. It's great to see contributions being added but please note:

- All food items must be identifiable with ingredients and a best before or sell by date
- Homegrown fruit and veg is always appreciated; please include the date it's put in the shed.
- No open packets to ensure rodents aren't tempted!
- No alcohol
- Any donated items must be in good condition and working order
- Toys and games must be complete, in good condition and safe for young children

The Aurora 2024

We have been so lucky this year with some incredible aurora sightings throughout our village and in Dalwhinnie. Here are some photos taken on different occasions...



Nicola, Dalwhinnie to Laggan road



Oriana, Dalwhinnie



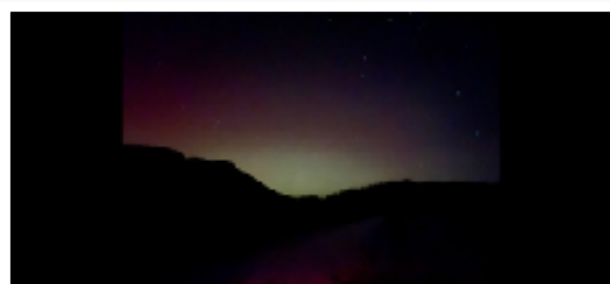
Tracey, Balgowan



Jackie, Laggan



Vickie, Laggan



Jill, Laggan

Angus MacDonald

Ishbel Hendry

Angus started work in 1958 at the age of fifteen and worked for 66 years on Glenshero.



He became head sawmiller on Glenshero estate and was in charge of the sawmill. When it was working at full capacity he was in charge of 7 men working there, who used the Highland Bear to cut and cart the European Larch from the plantation behind Sherramore lodge and other plantations down at Killiechonate, turning it into commercial timber, selling it as far away as Carrbridge and Fort William. The sawmill used to make fencing materials, boards, planks, and beams. By the end of the 1990's it had dropped back to Angus and Norman (Shona's husband) working there, when it was sadly shut down. Thereafter, Angus and Norman were given the full-time jobs of maintenance workers on Glenshero, which involved some exceptionally large jobs on the estate.

For his 30 years' service with the BA, both Angus and Norman went down to London, where the British Aluminium company held an annual dinner dance for the 30-year club and the new members were both presented with a gold watch, of which Angus was immensely proud. The only thing was that it seemed to run a bit fast. When we first came to Glenshero 30 years ago, you could set your clock by Angus as he left the house at 5 minutes to 8 every morning to go to work, but by the time that he retired he was leaving to go to work at 6.45am! Funnily enough that did not apply at the end of the day as he still finished at the same time.

He had a magnificent work ethic and over the years built all the gates and wooden sheds that are on Glenshero. He even helped build the big sheep sheds at Garvamore farm, setting the levels for the foundations using a water level, as well as wooden structures, dog kennels and bridges on the estate. Latterly he built the bird boxes, bat boxes, benches and flowerpots at the smelter and around the estates.

We think Angus and Norman built every wooden structure on the estate that is still standing. He built things to last, and everything had to be well made.

When Sherrabeg was renovated in 2015, Angy built the outdoor sheds, garden fence, benches and flowerpots that decorate the outside of Sherrabeg plus all the wooden gates and he even had the metal entrance gates cut to size and painted. The list goes on and all built by Angus.

He could always work out a job and any problem put in front of him he could solve, whether he could make it, or he had something back in the workshop to fix it.

He always had time for people and was always supportive of the younger generation or anybody that needed help. Enjoying a chat at break time with stories and jokes.



He had a strong community spirit and in his younger days was in a band with Yogi Campbell called The Virginians, who played locally and every year they played at the Laggan Community Christmas party. You could hear him of an evening playing the Eagles on his guitar.

Over the winter, Angus ran a badminton club in the hall at Laggan on Monday nights and encouraged and taught generations of Laggan youngsters, including our own children, to play badminton.

He was a generous man with his time and will be missed.

One of Angus's favourite jokes

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around, and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly, and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "£1,500!" she cried, "£1,500 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been £20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now £1,500."

Ducks in Trees

Kate Fleming

Bucephala Clangula, 'Goldeneye' or 'Whistler' Ducks are a rare nesting species of duck with just 200-300 breeding females in the UK and most of those here in the Highlands. Normally breeding in greater numbers within Scandinavia and further east, they are on the UK's Schedule 1 List of rare breeding birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and are legally protected. Unlike most ducks, they are loners and normally prefer to nest high up in trees over water with the female the sole incubator.

For us, 'ducks in trees' were not something we had any knowledge of until one took up residence in an old nest box, 10 feet up a Scots pine over our compost heap.

With her first attempt in 2023 resulting in 3 ducklings making it out of the nest, we were told by the local Goldeneye Study group boffins that she would likely return this spring, so we mounted a camera on the tree opposite the box in readiness. She first triggered the camera on the 22 March and in the beginning, she spent only a few hours in the box. She stayed longer as April lengthened until finally incubating the eggs every day from approximately 7pm at night all the way through till early afternoon the next day without a break. She would then leave the nest twice during the afternoon to feed for no more than 2 hours at a time, her internal clock incredibly precise as the days grew longer. Each morning, we would check the previous 24 hours footage over a coffee and squirm nervously as we witnessed any number of predators such as jackdaws, starlings, squirrels, and cats try to access the nest. She would bravely fight them off or sit quietly in the darkness, tucking herself low beneath the entrance.



She never touched the ground. Launching directly out of the box, she would fly low across the lawn, turning sharp right over our house, dipping down over Laggan bridge then veer up or down the Spey. Her wings would make a whistling sound (hence the name). I was up in the garden when she came back one afternoon, I heard the whistle coming and felt the breeze from her wings as she flew low over my head. With a wingspan of 70-80cm she left a vivid impression.

Her eagerly awaited brood began to hatch in the early hours of the morning of the 13th May with the night vision footage showing tiny ducklings already bouncing about behind her in the box as early as 5am. By 10am she began chattering to them, the first sounds we had really heard her make, she was encouraging them to go. She paused on the lip of the box giving last instructions, then flew down to the ground and loudly called for them to follow. Seven ducklings jumped from the box into the big world, bouncing off the grass and leaf litter below to follow her into the field behind our garden where she skirted the fence keeping to the long grass. She actively avoided the main road, instead taking them up the driveway past The Larches and on into the garden of The Manse. From there it's a guess but we think she then takes them to the top of the culvert beyond the house that flows down through the field and under the main road to get them to the waters of the Spey.



The nest box is now empty with only bluetits occasionally raiding the downy left-over duck feathers for their own nests. Next spring we will place a handful of fresh sawdust in the box in the hope she will make a return and do it all again, and we will be eagerly watching the camera for her first flight in.

Schools in Laggan Parish

Graham Grant

The end of an era - Gergask Primary School is closed and will shortly be sold off.



In early times, perhaps, only the sons of the nobility in Laggan may have received any education, but in 1709 the Scottish Society for The Propagation of Christian Knowledge proposed 'to erect and maintain schools in most of the Highlands....' By 1800 in Laggan it had for varying periods, provided schools at Gaskmore, Islandow (below Blaragie), Glenshero, Loch Laggan, Cluny, Balgowan, Gaskbeg, Glentruim and Muccoul

(Inverpattack). Also, after Culloden, the Forfeited Estates established a school at Gaskenloan (opposite Drumgask), and the first Parochial school appeared in the 'centre' of the parish. The Free Church taught 70 pupils in Balgowan in 1848.

The Education Act 1872 brought new public schools at Gergask, Loch Laggan and Dalwhinnie with sporadic 'Side Schools' in more the isolated Shanval, Glentruim and Glenshero. (Much later from here, Miss MacKenzie would take on summer evenings at weekends, her autocycle, back and fore via Lochan Spey, to her home in Braeroy). The most prominent entries in the Loch Laggan school logbooks were on 'Attendance'. This was affected by Storms, Colds, Floods, Hay Making, the Peats, Kingussie Market, Ball Play(shinty), 'On the Moors' (grousebeating), Whooping Cough and Potato Lifting

Throughout the 20th century, the history of Gergask and Loch Laggan schools is very well documented in "Laggan's Legacy". Dalwhinnie closed 1992, Loch Laggan 2012, and in 2022 the last 3 Gergask pupils transferred to Newtonmore.

Today our young ones are whisked away in Stagecoach double deckers, and we miss the resident hardworking teachers and staff and the vibrant school buildings. Now, however, new methods of instruction and learning evolve; new residents and businesses will/use the buildings and Laggan Parish is slowly moving with the times as it always has.

By coincidence, this apt quote written by E Hoffer has just been circulated around by an exiled friend of Laggan----"In times of change, the learners inherit the earth, while others find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists".



Formerly Balgowan School



Glenshero Side School



Dalwhinnie Sports - Laggan Ladies Tug 'O War



School House Falls of Truim



Loch Laggan School 1950's Duncans & Macleans



Gergask Primary School Circa 1967

What's On In Laggan July to October 2024

Laggan Community Hall AGM Friday 5th July

- Friday 5th July
- 7pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 22nd July

- Monday 22nd July
- 6.30 pm
- Venue to be confirmed

Margaret's Ceilidh Saturday 3rd August

- Saturday 3rd August
- Time to be confirmed
- Featuring accordionist Freeland Barbour & one other member of their band - The Occasionals
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Church Community BBQ Sunday 25th August

- Sunday 25th August
- 12noon - 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall (please note change of venue)



In Concert with North Sea Gas Saturday 31st August

- Details to be confirmed
- Laggan community Hall

Laggan Community Council Monday 16th September

- Monday 16th September
- 6.30pm, Venue to be confirmed

Helping Hands Soup Lunch Thursday 19th September

- Thursday 19th September
- 12.00 - 1.30pm
- Laggan Community Hall



Laggan Bake Off Sunday 20th October

- Sunday 20th October
- 2.00 Drop off entries
- 3.00 Voting and prizes
- Laggan Community Hall



Laggan Community Council Monday 21st October

- Monday 21st October
- 6.30pm
- Venue to be confirmed

GB Snowsport's Cross-Country Squad



Huge congratulations to James Slimon and the rest of the team for being chosen for the Cross-Country World Cup 2024/25 season.

We look forward to following the squad and wish them every success.

The Laggan Forest Trust

Summer 2024

Forest Management Planning

One of the Trust's key roles is to provide feedback to Forest Land Scotland (FLS), on behalf of the Community, on their management and activities that impact on the Forest estate in and around the Laggan Area. This should include both "Forestry" operations and "Visitor" Management. FLS are still in the middle of consulting on their next 10 year Forest management plan and we still await the FLS' revised consultation proposals. As a result of changes in FLS' centrally run procedures and policies since 2016, disappointingly, the Trust has had little or no effective involvement and participation in managing the Strathmashie Forest estate for many years - the one exception to this, has been monitoring any issues on the mountain bike trails from observations and comments brought by customers into the Wolfrax Centre café.

Now that the tourist season is upon us, it remains disappointing that little progress has been made from the first round of community feedback relating to any reinstatement of the "circular walking routes" enjoyed historically by the community and visitors alike. Like many public sector organisations at present, we suspect the lack of response is the result of budget cutbacks impacting service provision. During a meeting with FLS in late February, it became apparent that any future community involvement in Forest Management would be likely to involve a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process to either buy or lease part of the Forest Estate - e.g. woodland and car park areas (Wolfrax, Pattack Falls) - such a process would take around a year to plan. Previous community and member discussions on this subject resulted in 3 separate votes NOT to buy any of the remaining forest estate in the area - or even to consider it if it became "surplus to FLS requirements".

Visitor Management

As Summer (questionably) approaches, comments already received about the new Blue Mountain Bike Trail, are very enthusiastic leading to an increased number of positive visitor comments. It has arguably led to a "high overnight usage rate" of the car park, and this remains "unmonitored by FLS" despite our offer - supported by the Strathmashie residents - for the Trust to manage the car park in some way.

The last weekend of April saw the return of an Enduro Mountain Bike event to Laggan Wolfrax - and blessed with good weather, it was very successful. We appreciated all the support from local volunteers and other local businesses to ensure it ran smoothly. The event brought competitors and their supporters from all parts of the UK - some to Scotland for the first time - with everyone commenting on the warm welcome they received, the spectacular scenery and the trails themselves. Many will be back. Our thanks to all who helped out.

The "Connecting Laggan" project

This project was initiated after the first Community Action Plan in 2019 and the same community priority was reinforced in the 2022 version. LFT had volunteered to progress this activity on behalf of the Community Council. Since then, we have updated the Community

Council to advise that the project will now have to go “into abeyance” following the successful completion of 2 of the 4 phases required – consultation and initial design proposals.

The project is now unable to proceed without key agreements from Transport Scotland regarding possible design and safety changes to the carriageway over the main Bridge over the Spey. This has been outstanding for over 18 months and the lack of response from TS continues to frustrate all involved. With TS now also transferring their community related project funding to “local authorities”, with questions also about availability of funding for any “build”, the Directors of LFT have paused the project. It still appears to fit well into the recently announced CNPA Horizon 2030 project to encourage “active travel” in the Park, so we will ensure early contact with CNPA to understand how this project could support Laggan.

The Future

The board of the Trust has started a long-term strategy planning process and will look forward to having inputs from ALL members of the community in the coming months. This will include our future relationship with FLS, how we use our existing land resource (at Gorstean and adjacent to the Woodshed) to benefit the community, and how we are able to continue to support recreational, environmental and economic development as well as local employment from the Laggan area at the Wolfrax Centre especially. If you have any comments or suggestions on any aspect of LFT or FLS activities, please send us your views to the Laggan Forest Trust office – support@lagganforest.com

By the time of publication, the AGM of the Trust will have taken place on Friday June 21st and details of any announcements of the new Board members will be published on the LFT website and advised to members and the community council.

On behalf of The Laggan Forest Trust

Laggan Community Housing Ltd

The water supply from the new tank and improved plant room is at last flowing into all 12 Strathmashie houses.

The Deed of Servitude required by LFT to allow us to extract water from the borehole is still slowly progressing, but Ben Alder have given us a letter of permission to cross their few yards of the chapel road they still own from the days they owned the Strathmashie Estate.

We are not progressing the planning application for houses in the Picnic Site as the access costs were too expensive. As LCH money comes from our Strathmashie tenants rent we hope we can come to an agreement with some of the Gergask residents to take over the care of the play park and picnic site.

Sheena Slimon / sheena.feithbuidhe@icloud.com

Badenoch Broad Band - Your Broadband

Badenoch Broadband began in 2011 after the community decided to do something about the poor broadband service in Laggan. It was unreliable and only 0.5Mbps when it worked. After a few of us agreed to take it on and spend a year getting the infrastructure set up and learning the technology, we started transmitting in 2012. So, this year marks 12 years of operation.

We are a "Community Interest Company", which is a special type of limited company which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders. We have always been staffed and run by members of the community.

Our remit is to enable Laggan to compete digitally with the rest of the Strath and therefore ensure that Laggan is a place where business can thrive, where our children can learn and where visitors have the connectivity they need when they stay.

It's easy to forget how bad things were. We don't want to get into a situation where Laggan falls behind again and so, this year, we are planning a major upgrade to our system. Our current services are 32Mbps and 50Mbps (this is the speed/capacity). We want to be able provide all our customers with at least 100Mbps with 200Mbps, 300Mbps and faster becoming available as the project progresses. This will require new equipment on our masts and new equipment installed on everyone's house to replace the current dishes and receivers and we want to do all this without having to raise our prices or charge high installation fees.

By the time you read this we will have completed a new Ultrafast connection into the Laggan Village Hall. This is capable of more than 200Mbps and is to showcase the new technology.

What we need from you

In the same way that BT has had to get funding from the Scottish Government to roll out fibre in parts of Scotland, we need to raise funding to pay for the cost of the hardware that will make these services possible.

We are applying to Laggan's SSE Wind-farm fund, and we need help from everybody to demonstrate that the community feels that up-to-date broadband is still considered important for the future of the community. More than 85% of homes within the Laggan parish use our service, and all will directly benefit from the SSE-funded upgrade.

This isn't just about the service today, it's about the service for the future. And it's not just about your individual needs it's about the needs of the community as-a-whole. So even if you feel that the current service is adequate for you right now, we still need your help.

We know from talking to many of you how essential our service is to your daily lives, and we have to act now to make sure the service is still keeping Laggan competitive for the next 12 years. BT's fibre plans do not include Laggan (and the population is too spread out to make this economically viable).

If you are a customer of ours already, please look out for an email from us asking you to take a short survey. If you complete the survey, it will enable us to demonstrate that good broadband in Laggan is vital and will help us to secure the future of the service.

If you are not a customer but would still like to show support, please send an email to admin@badenochbroadband.com and we'll send you a link to the survey.

Digital Phone Service

You may also be aware that BT is going to be switching off the analogue phone service - supposedly by December 2025. This will affect everyone in Laggan that uses a landline phone. We are therefore launching a digital (VOIP) phone service that will be cheaper than the line-rental that you currently pay to BT (and you don't need to keep your phone line if you take up our service). Please contact us if this is of interest.

This new service will also help protect and improve connectivity in Laggan.

Alistair Fleming

Laggan Community Council

LCC held its AGM on the 17th of June and thanks to all the members of the community and our Highland Council and CNPA representatives for joining us.

It was agreed that Karen Thew would continue as Chair, Mignonne Khazaka as Vice Chair, Amanda Gallagher as Secretary and Cath Hamill as Treasurer.

Thanks to our volunteers who continue to serve and contribute to the running of the Community Council.

Looking forward to the next year the CC will endeavour to push forward with the priorities outlined in the Community Action Plan, respond to planning requests and consultation and try to come up with a plan to keep the public toilets open.

Our top priority is to find a way to utilise the large sum of money that we have from the Stronelaig Community Fund for the benefit of all of Laggan Community. To this end we are actively engaged in looking at setting up either a Community benefit fund or organisation which will enable us to access the money and to fund the many ideas from the Community Action Plan. It could potentially employ a Community benefit manager to kick start projects.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in how we spend these funds for the benefit of our community.

Karen Thew
Amanda Gallagher



Contact Information

Church of Scotland

Contact: marythompson835@icloud.com www.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com

Telephone 01540 667226

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@gmail.com