

# LAGGAN MATTERS

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

## Contents

### What's on in Laggan

November '24 to March 2025

### Laggan Church

New Minister

Purchase Update

### Laggan Clippings

Campbell Slimon

### Pilates Taster Session

Pam Stirling

### Inside Garvamore Barracks

Trevor Warner

### Sporting News

Laggan's Local heroes

### TJ's War

Campbell Slimon

And much much more ...

## Welcome to Laggan Matters

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



Welcome to the winter edition of Laggan Matters.

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](mailto:jillvn@aol.com)



## A Very Warm Welcome To Our New Minister

---



It's been 22 years since Robert Brookes was our local postie so it is wonderful to welcome him back as our new Minister. Celebrations started on Saturday 19th October with his Induction service in Kingussie Church followed by tea and cakes in St Brides, Newtonmore.

There is definitely a theme here as Robert loves to cook in his spare time. He is especially partial to fish and chips and a slice or two of cake! Who knew they could be one of the same until he was presented with lemon flavoured fish & chip cakes!

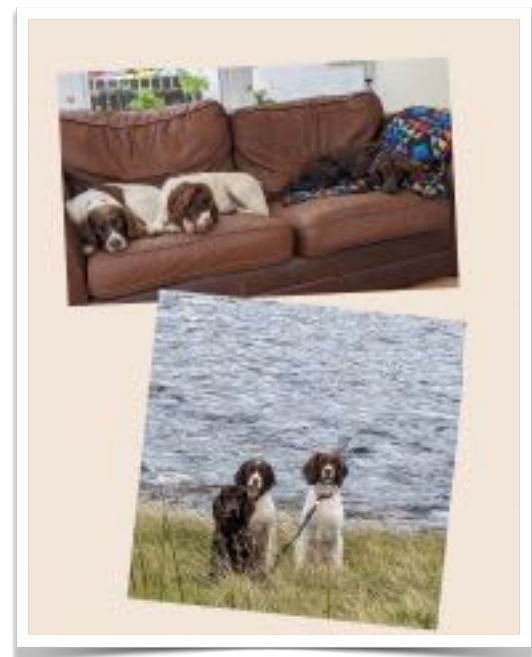


Robert is delighted to have 'come home' and wants everyone in the community to know he is their minister regardless of their faith, or even if they have no faith at all. He strongly feels we are one big family and is looking forward to getting to know everyone that he doesn't already know.



For those who are wondering which shinty team he might support, here is your answer... Robert was presented with this wonderful scarf of two teams with a band across the back representing the River Spey.

In his spare time Robert enjoys walking his dogs and reading. You might even spot him or his camper van in various locations whilst out with Avich, Fraoich and Imrich.



Robert has some exciting ideas up his sleeve including retreat days/afternoons, pet services as well as a film and book club. So watch this space ...

Robert is very keen for us all to let him know if anyone in our community is unwell so he can visit them, either at home or in hospital, so please get in touch with him. Similarly if you would like him to visit you, just get in touch.

Meeting Robert you immediately know that he is someone who is caring, supportive, is a good listener and also has a great sense of humour.

Jill Warner

## Laggan Church Purchase Update

Pete Moore

---

Following the public meeting in June, a small group of us have been meeting to build the case to take forward the ambition to purchase Laggan Church on behalf of the community.

It has been a remarkably smooth run so far; the Church of Scotland set the closing date for bids as 13th September and by that time - a little over 5 weeks ago - we had an initial business plan drafted, which was then summarised to accompany our offer. An initial funding package was agreed, and the terms of a SCIO drafted in the name of Laggan Church Partnership - necessary to handle money and receive title of the building in due course.

The funding to purchase the church has come from Ardverikie Estate, from a private donor, and from Laggan Heritage. Our offer was one of three received by the Church of Scotland General Trustees and they gave our bid a conditional acceptance. They set a completion date of the 18th December on the condition that by that time, our SCIO would be registered and in place.

The Charities independent regulator and registrar (OSCR) advises that SCIOs can take up to 100 days to register and at the time of application, there were only 84 days before the deadline, so there was a certain amount of apprehension! However, we are delighted to announce, that as of 21st October, we have our SCIO!

The registration has arrived in record time and we can now look forward to completing the deal and taking ownership of the church in just under two months. Between now and then, there are a few things to do in a practical sense - like opening a bank account and arranging insurance, but also most importantly, reach out to the community and talk about plans and timelines ...

We have had to move necessarily fast to get to where we are, but thanks to OSCR's efficiency, we now have some breathing space. It had been our intention to call a public meeting even with uncertainty hanging over the deal, but we can now proceed more confidently.

Please join us at **Laggan Church at 6pm on 12th November**. We hope that it will provide an opportunity to update more fully on progress, answer any questions and seek your support and guidance for the next steps, as we move towards community ownership of Laggan Church.

We want the community to be aware of what is going on, be at the centre of this new initiative and be behind us as we move forwards at this exciting time. The meeting will take as long as necessary, but shouldn't drag on all evening, so please come along with all your questions.

Please make a note of the date - **12th November, in Laggan Church at 6pm**.



## Laggan Church BBQ

Despite the rain there was a great turnout and we all had a lovely time at the annual BBQ, which this year was held in the Village Hall. Thanks to everyone for their help in making it a fun event for the young and young at heart!



Margaret with baby Nova



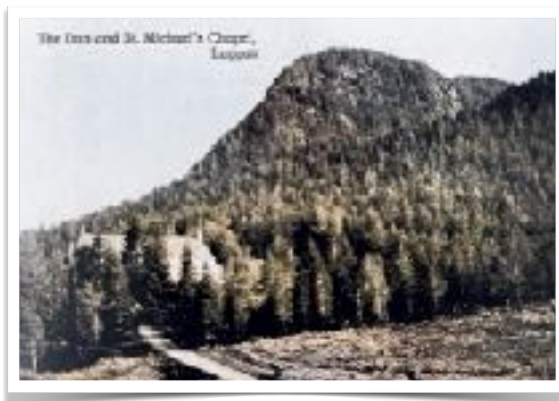
# Pilgrimage Walk

Campbell Simon



Twenty folk met at St Kenneth's graveyard at Aberarder Lodge. A modern cairn with the cross that had originally been on top of St Michael's and built by local man Davie Campbell, was admired along with the work done by Ardverikie Estate to preserve this ancient church. They have removed much of the invasive ivy and the trees that were threatening the roofless building. After hearing about the history of the building from our leader Rev. Robert Brookes, David Taylor told us this was all part of Gallovie and the biggest sheep walk in the North of Scotland. St Michael was an Irish companion of St Columba in the 7th century. It was thought he lived here for two years converting the Pictish folk to Christianity. The present building is much later, perhaps the 14th or 15thC.

We then headed along the Coffin Road which eventually led us to St Michaels which was demolished in the 1960s.



Along the way, which was an old coffin road coming over from Whitebridge by Loch Ness, both Graham Grant and David filled us in with the history of the one time thriving glen and coming to Glenshero, a cairn was identified where coffins had been rested on their way to St Kenneth's.

Mariah's Gate was another stop for the Drovers coming over the Corrieairack Pass and also for us, where a long forgotten stance was pointed out.

One is usually worried about bad weather spoiling the day but this time it was pleasantly warm along the five mile route and some asked where would it be next year!!





## Where Is it?

---

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



Photographed by Jackie Ashworth within the Laggan Parish



Answer to last issue's photo:-  
Sarah Macpherson's  
Monument ( wife of Ewen  
Machperson of Cluny)

Trevor Warner

If you would like to send one of your photos for this regular feature, please email it to [jillvn@aol.com](mailto:jillvn@aol.com)

## Sarah Justina Macpherson of Cluny

---

Sarah's monument lies on the opposite side of the valley to her husband Ewen's. Using binoculars you can see each monument from the other ( Ewen's is just below the green dot).



## Garvamore Barracks

**Trevor Warner**



This Category A listed building can be found on the General Wade's road near Garva Bridge.

It was constructed around 1740 and initially would have been a tackman's house for the Duke of Gordon's estate.

Despite being known as the barracks it is more likely that it later served as an inn (King's House) for all the travellers using the King's highway.

It has undergone several repairs and restoration work in the last 60 years. In the late 1960s slates were removed from the roof and replaced with felt.

In 1991 The Vivat Trust had expressed an interest in restoring the property to holiday accommodation.

From 1999 to 2004 repairs were undertaken to the roofs, chimneys and rainwater goods.

Laing Traditional Masonry were contracted by West Highland Estates to carry out several works, including: repair of existing masonry (walls, windows and door openings) and reinstatement of traditional lime harling.



In July 2008 the local community expressed an interest in finding a use for the building, but it remains disused.

Who knows what the future will bring but at present this building is a great landmark in this stunning glen.



In September 2019 I was fortunate to be part of a group that were invited to see inside the building. Obviously, there is still a lot that needs to be done but as you can see from the photos it is a lovely building even in its present state.



## Helping Hands



## The Helping Hands Team

### Food Share Shed

It's great to see the shed being used so regularly over the 2 years it has been there. Its primary use remains a place to share any excess , or unwanted food and take anything you would like. Some of the money donated from our lunches and teas goes towards buying basics like pasta and sauce so there is always a meal if needed. We have also added books and dvds which is proving to be popular. On the odd occasion some inappropriate adult material has been left and as the food shed is open to all including children, we would ask if anyone finds anything like this could you please remove it, or let the Helping Hands Team know. Also large household items and electrical goods should not be left in the shed, but taken to a charity shop instead.



Thank you for all your support

### Soup Lunch

Despite it being a very warm and sunny day, it was lovely so many folk joined us for our soup lunch in September.



We postponed the planned Bake Off in October as Robert was being Inducted into the parish that weekend.

  <p>Need help with digital? Call our Connecting Scotland helpline:</p> <p><b>0800 0590 690</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.peopleknowhow.org">www.peopleknowhow.org</a></p>	<p><b>Edinburgh</b> Straits Meadow 61-63 London Road Edinburgh EH7 6AA</p> <p><b>East Lothian</b> F11 Fisherrow Centre South Street Musselburgh EH21 6AT</p> <p>Registered charity no. SC043871</p>
---	---

We are People Know How, we run the [Connecting Scotland Digital Support Helpline](#) in partnership with the Scottish Government and SCVO. The helpline offers **free digital support and advice** to anyone who lives in Scotland on topics such as:

- Using devices like smartphones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers
- Connecting to the internet
- Navigating the web and social media
- Completing everyday tasks online
- Connecting with the community, family and friends
- Managing finances, paying bills and saving money online

In 2024, we want to increase awareness of this free helpline, helping more people to stay connected and access digital. We'd be delighted if you could spread the word in your local community, sharing the number with those in your network.

We also have a suite of communications resources available for you to share to spread the word including social media graphics, a digital flyer, printable poster and a press release featuring a number of case studies, all of which are attached to this email. For printed flyers, we're happy to mail a batch out to you to distribute around the community - just provide us with the address and if there's a certain amount you'd like.

Please also consider sharing our posts to get the word out, and do give us a follow for regular updates about the helpline: [Facebook](#) / [X\(Twitter\)](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#)

Best wishes  
People Know How Communications



## Pilates-based Conditioning Class

**Pam Stirling**

Pam has been a certified fitness professional for around 30 years. With a deep understanding of health and exercise she can motivate participants while being approachable and supportive. She creates inspirational workouts that help clients achieve their fitness goals and guides people through exercise routines to improve their overall physical health and wellness.

Having worked for some of the UK's most prestigious fitness brands such as David Lloyd, Nuffield and Next Generation clubs, she currently splits her time between Bannatyne's and Highland Leisure, teaching Spin, Step, HIIT, body conditioning and Pilates classes.

She's running a free taster Pilates-based conditioning class in November in Laggan Community Hall. Pilates offers numerous physical and mental benefits, delivering an addictive, full-body workout that promotes long-term core and spinal health, making it a popular form of exercise for people of all fitness levels. See 'What's On In Laggan' for more details.

## Laggan Amenity Group

**Karen Threw**

We are making slow but steady progress in the park. We are clearing all of the old summer growth and preparing the ground for spring. There's a lot of work still to do but our small group of volunteers are committed to making the park accessible and welcoming for locals and visitors alike.



Thanks to our team for your hard work and thanks for donations of materials to Kevin Fletcher.

If you would like to be involved or have ideas to share, please do get in touch with us.

## **What's On In Laggan**    November to March 2025

---

### **Laggan Church Purchase Update Public Meeting    Tuesday 12th November**

---

- Tuesday 12th November
- 6.00pm
- Laggan Church

### **Laggan Remembrance Service    Sunday 10th November**

---

- Sunday 10th November
- 9.00am (sharp)
- Laggan Memorial

### **Pilates- based Conditioning Taster Session    Friday 29th November**

---

- Friday 29th November
- 9.30 - 10.30am
- Laggan Community Hall

### **Laggan Community Council Meeting    Monday 2nd December**

---

- Monday 2nd December
- 6.30pm
- Venue to be confirmed

### **Celebration of Laggan Church    Friday 20th December**

---

- Friday 20th December
- 7.00pm
- Laggan Church

### **\* Final Service in Laggan Church    Sunday 22nd December    To be confirmed**

---

- Sunday 22nd December
- 11.30am
- Laggan Church

**\*Christmas Eve Service Tuesday 24th December To be confirmed**

---

- Tuesday 24th December
- 9.00pm
- Laggan Church

**Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 17th February**

---

- Monday 17th February
- 6.30 pm
- Venue to be confirmed

**Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 17th March**

---

- Monday 17th March
- 6.30pm
- Venue to be confirmed

**Laggan Heritage****Campbell Slimon**

---

Some of you may remember a talk by Iain Maclean titled "Churchill and the Man from Glentruim". The "Man" turned out to be his father who was the son of our teacher at Glentruim School. The school closed in 1958.

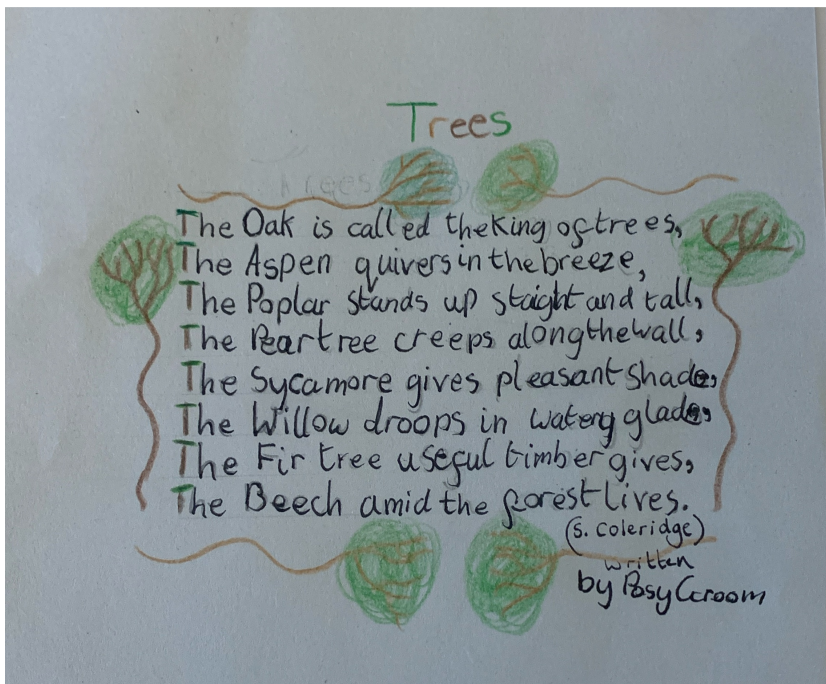
Thomas John Maclean or TJ as he was called was in MI6 during the war. His exploits were, of course, secret but included capturing the head of the Nazis in Norway, who used his Alsation dog for getting information from his prisoners and taking out an Irish unit who were refuelling the German U.boats.

John has now written a biography of his father, Titled "TJ's War" and includes his various exploits and encounters with Churchill. He operated concurrently with Ian Fleming, writer of the James Bond books and seems to have had the same fondness for women and alcohol!!  
"TJ's War" is written and published by Iain Maclean.



# Poems and Pictures

## The Groom Family



"Hi, I'm Posy. I am 10 years old. I moved to Scotland from England when I was 8. I love gymnastics, bike riding, puzzles and poetry. Nature poems are my favourite. I learnt this poem about trees by S. Coleridge when I was 6 and I have never forgotten it!

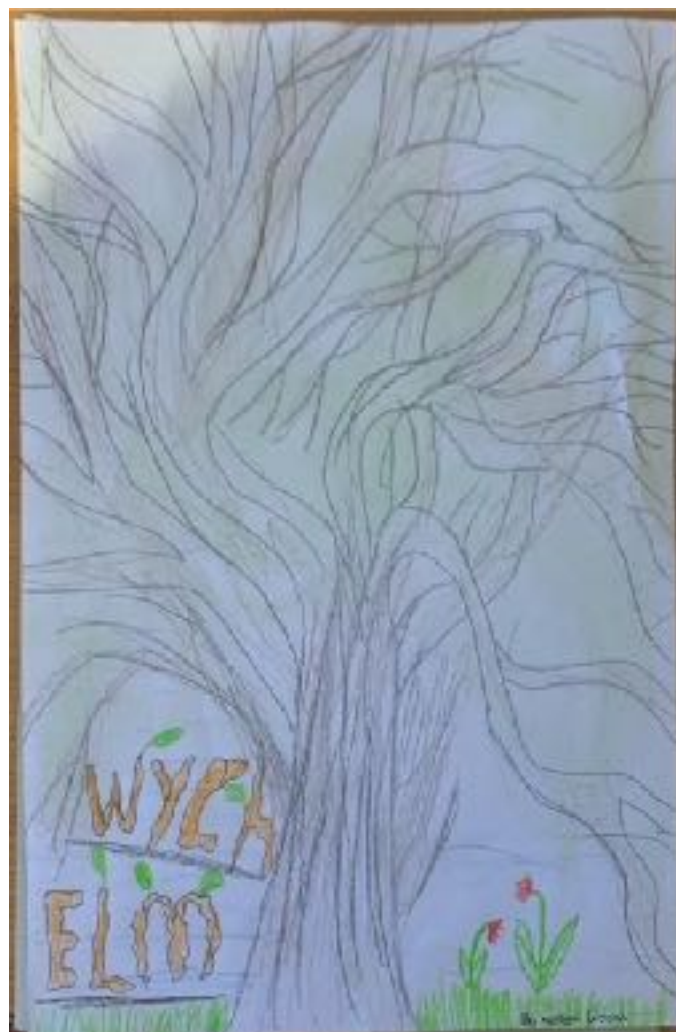
My best book of poems, that I found in a skip at Laggan School, is called 'The Book of a Thousand Poems'.

\*Wych Elm\*?

Have you ever wondered what is growing in the farmer's plot?  
 Doctors visits, hall engagements,  
 She towers over your arrangements.  
 Furry leaves, oval and rough,  
 Greyish bark gnarled and tough.  
 Mid August brings a flurry of seeds,  
 Tumbling, fluttering in the breeze.  
 English, Cornish, Jersey, Dutch, is all this getting a bit to much?!  
 Laggan's giant proud and tall,  
 watching knowingly over us all.

Poem by Carley Groom

Picture by Nelson Groom



## BEAR Necessities

Graham Grant

Following a lengthy total closure, another section of the A86 trunk road has recently been upgraded, -- this a continuous procedure since Telford's original construction c1810.

Several bridges had been damaged at Kingussie, Dunmaglass, Borlum, Whitebridge, Dalcrag, and Laggan. The centre piles erected to support the Laggan Bridge on the east Laggan Road were swept away. As these piles have now been twice carried off, the inspector had at a cost of about £51 supported the bridge on a different principle by iron trusses from the sides, and out of reach of flood or ice. The roadway was also being repaired with asphalt. This bridge would now last for a number of years without further repair. Besides these principal items, the whole of the roads in all the districts of the county have been more or less cut up on the surface. These, however, have been speedily repaired, and the roads are now in their usual condition. To this report was appended a statement of the expense to be incurred this year in consequence of the floods, amounting to £399. 11s. 7d. : extra works executed on the roads during 1867, £190. 13s. ; amount required for maintenance and repair of the roads during the current year, £3965. 3s. 2d

For example, Telford's original Laggan Bridge, washed away in 1826 was soon replaced by a timber bridge. This after a couple of repairs, was followed in 1868 by a structure supported by iron trusses, the sockets of which can still today be seen on the old bridge abutments.



In 1913 the deck was replaced and widened (also to be seen on the old abutments) with the girder bridge many remember so well. The present structure was built in 1985.

During the 1930's further improvements, included widening the road and laying the boggy Faegour straight on concrete - Telford had used tree branches.







Also the narrow Strathmashie bridge on a tight corner, was replaced by a new concrete structure faced with neat stonework.

**SPEANBRIDGE-NEWTOMMORE ROAD**

Similar improvements over a distance of eight miles are proposed on the Speanbridge-Newtmonmore Road (A86) from Laggan Hotel to Drumgask, in the county of Inverness. This road forms a link between the Ballachulish-Inverness Road (A82) and the Perth-Inverness Road (A9). Between the points mentioned in the existing road has a carriageway only 13-14 feet wide and the surface is in bad repair. A 16 foot carriageway will be provided throughout the section and while in general the new alignment will follow the existing route, curves and gradients will be improved where necessary.

For a length of more than half a mile where the road crosses a peat bog, the carriageway will be built in reinforced concrete; elsewhere it will be surfaced with bituminous macadam, Grass verges at least 3 feet wide will be laid out on the sides of the road. A feature of the scheme is the rebuilding in reinforced concrete of Strathmashie Bridge, which will have a span of nearly 34 feet. In addition, three large culverts will be reconstructed. The cost of the whole scheme



**INVERNESS-CHIEF ROAD IMPROVEMENT.**—Extensive reconstruction is being carried out on this narrow Ballachulish-Spean Bridge road. A section is now open to traffic, vehicles using the new road rolling on left.



Other examples are the rock cutting above the River Pattack and the many retaining walls similar to that between Auchmore and Uvie (above right). Into the future, increasing amounts of traffic and the effects of the weather will continue to take their toll, always requiring lots more red lights on the A86.



## Laggan Clippings

Campbell Simon

---

In "The good old days!" "neighbouring" that is helping out other farms in the district with the annual 'labour intensive' tasks such as clippings, 'tattie howking' and the threshing mill was quite the norm. The clippings were the first of these annual events and perhaps the first time shepherds had met that year as many lived isolated up neighbouring glens and winters ran into lambing and it was not till post-war that cars became affordable. Now, only clippings remain, albeit with much fewer numbers both of sheep and shepherds. With the coming of machine shearing in the 1970s 'outside clippings' became a thing of the past, as electricity has to be "on tap". The exception being Dalwhinnie where a generator to power up to ten machines is essential. The machine too is much more efficient than the old hand shears so shearers can clip many more sheep. (Recently a Scots lassie broke the World record for a woman, by shearing 560 in a nine hour day.) With up to ten machines operating, the fleeces soon pile up, so an efficient team to tie and pack them has to be organised, usually the young and the not so young!!

When I started in the 1950s, I went to about 15 clippings. The bigger farms would have three. Hogg clipping and two 'milk', that is the ewes. There was also the Ben Alder clipping where it was two and three year old wedders, i.e. castrated sheep. Alex Cruikshank( Crookie) was the shepherd and gillie and was MC at the ceilidh that followed, with the ladies who had done the cooking and baking hauling the weary shepherds up to dance to old '78' records.

The modern equivalent took place at the Blaragie event where Donnie Wilson and his Glaswegian buddie, Walter Wright, after making the broth, would regale us with songs both Gaelic and Scottish round the table in his garage whilst Donnie's wife, Liz and her helpers kept us fed and watered.

When I was on the Wool Board the problem of getting shearers was on the agenda at every meeting and when I said that Laggan had nine shearers average age 27, I was not believed. Most of the nine are still here 30 years on!! We still can muster ten shearers at the few big days that remain, albeit that some come willingly from as far as Skye and Edinburgh.

Essential for shearing is a strong back, as long days shearing stubborn Blackface ewes can be very tiring, as can crogging i.e. dragging the ewe to the shearer. This is where a "wee dram" can do wonders. It is recorded that a hundred years ago it was not uncommon for two dozen bottles of whisky to be consumed by the 60 men. If rain is threatening a "wee dram" can speed the output dramatically.

Now, when the sheep are safely inside and dry, the shepherd can relax safe in the knowledge that the 'squad' will complete the job before the end of the day, even though that might be after dark. As well as the 'wee dram' and a can is the sumptuous food to look forward to, be it good old fashioned Scotch broth, mince and tatties or Margaret Sharp's famous girdle scones. In 'the good old days' a wedder was slaughtered and mutton pieces would be served but health and safety prevents that now!!



The hand shears in our fank in Drumochter in 1974, the last clipping before the A9 went through it. Ian MacGillivray is in the foreground with Sandy Anderson senior.



This photo was taken at the replacement fank at Dalwhinnie.

Keith Grant is on the left and I'm on the right.

Note the difference in size of the fleeces.

## Electronic or Hard Copy??

If you would like to receive a copy of Laggan Matters via email contact [info@laggan.com](mailto:info@laggan.com) and ask to be added to the resident's mailing list. Or if you no longer want to receive copy, just email and let them know.



If you would like a hard copy email [jillvn@aol.com](mailto:jillvn@aol.com) to be added to the delivery list. We now deliver about 100 copies!

A huge thank you to Jackie Ashworth who kindly drives enabling Jill to jump out and pop them in your letterbox! Don't feel too sorry for them, it's a good excuse to go out for lunch en route!

## The Laggan Forest Trust Autumn / Winter 2024

---

### Forest Management Planning - next 10 years

A second consultation on the next 10 year Forest Land Scotland forestry management plan (2024-2034) for Strathmashie Forest took place in late September with members of both Laggan Community Council and The Laggan Forest Trust board providing feedback to FLS planners. Key to the discussion was an acknowledgement that future activities need to pay attention to the forest's appearance, its impact on the environment, planting of appropriate native species, both broadleaf and conifer and promoting local employment.

As far as FLS are concerned, the Strathmashie Forest remains very "commercial", generating a significant revenue for FLS (and ultimately) Scottish Government. There remains more specific discussions on how the management of the Forest could generate any local "forestry" employment. The on-going FLS procurement process continues to favour "large" organisations with integrated supply chains and it remains difficult for local self-employed "foresters" to "get access" to these contracts. Even planting for the future is now being channelled to "national" contracts and potentially away from any local capabilities.

### Visitor Management

The FLS meeting also explored related "Visitor" Management activities with the CC and LFT members extolling the benefits of activities to promote the walking/bike trails and to ensure reinstatement of all core paths in the area which have been subjected to commercial felling - e.g. the trail to and from Drum An Aird specifically referenced for reinstatement. Discussions continue.

As Summer recedes into a distant memory, comments received about the new Blue Mountain Bike Trail, have been very enthusiastic and we believe has lead to an increased number of visitors to the area and thanks are due to all our staff in the summer months for their great support to ensure visitors to the Centre receive a warm welcome and great service. We hope that local businesses and accommodation providers have also benefitted from additional visitors to the area.

At the end of September, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Wolftrax Mountain Bike trails. FLS and LFT supported and coordinated a number of mountain bike coaching activities for young and old with the Badenoch & Strathspey Trail Association also doing some trail repair training sessions in the Blackwood. All were very ably "fed" in the café and the LFT volunteers manned a successful BBQ. It was also good to see Jack Mackay (from FLS) and Paul Masson (original designer) in attendance. It was Jack who initiated the original trail development in 2003/4 from within the old Forestry Commission organisation, and its naming as Wolftrax, along the LFT board at the time.

### 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](mailto:support@lagganforest.com)

On behalf of The Laggan Forest Trust.

## Laggan Kings

Lucy Grant



21<sup>ST</sup> September 2024, a great day in Fort William when Calum Grant lifted, for the first time ever the brand new replica Camanachd Cup for Kingussie. This is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive win for the Red & Blues!

The amazing fact is that all these 3 winning Camanachd Captains are Laggan men.

Savio Genini in 2022, James Falconer in 2023, (who will go down in Shinty history as the last captain to lift the original Camanachd Cup, now installed in Inverness Castle Shinty Museum) and Calum Grant this year.

Photo of Calum with the Cup and his biggest fan his sister Kirsty!

## GB Snowsport's Cross-Country Squad



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

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

*Editor's note: Apologies that in the last issue it stated the World Cup instead of the Continental Cup.*

## Beryl MacRae 25th February 1927 - 7th October 2024



Beryl arrived in Scotland in 1949, 22 years of age and newly married, to a cottage on a hillside with stunning views but no electricity or hot water in the taps, her home in South Africa had both. Undeterred and with Alister by her side, Beryl soon fitted in to this new way of living.

With Alister working for the Forestry Commission they moved to Strathmashie and then later to Loneilan in Balgowan when Alister worked for British Alcan ( now Jamaha Estate ). Her children Roddy, Neil & Alison were schooled at Kinlochlaggan, Gergask and Kingussie High. Roddy & Alison are both now retired doctors.

Beryl, sat on on the Hall Committee for many years, very involved in the WRI, the Management Committee of Laggan Community Trading Company, the Red Cross and ran the Friendship Club in Newtonmore for many years.

She delivered the post, leaving home at 5am on winters morning with snow and or ice conditions (proper winters in those days) yet still turning out to WRI meetings in the evening.

Beryl was a great baker, knitter and sewer, winning many competitions. In retirement Beryl became "Granny" to many children whose parents were both out working. At church she would be the first to welcome the visitors or new community members. She always came to church smartly dressed and beautifully colour co-ordinated. A Seventh Day Adventist she read her bible daily and lived her life accordingly. Neil's untimely and unexpected death was a terrible blow but Beryl's strong belief had herself and Alister on the dance floor once again. They were still doing Strip the Willows when well into their 80s.

With eyesight failing and driving difficult the long discussed move to Newtonmore at last happened. Beryl took this move like a duck to water and had the times taken to run ( Beryl never walked ) to church, co-op and post office noted. Having her niece Christine plus granddaughter across the road and Tarzan popping in to help with garden and odd jobs, Beryl was in her element.

Most of all I will miss Beryl's jokes and little stories she read at the end of the Christmas lunch and any other occasion that she thought appropriate.

This is the first joke she told me a few days after my first grandchild was born, - Beryl " Do you know the worst thing about being a grandmother ? Me "No ", Beryl, " Having to sleep with the grandfather " Still makes me laugh.

Sheena Slimon



## Stronelairst Community Fund Grant Award and other news!

---

The Laggan Advisory Panel for the Stronelairst Community Fund are delighted to announce a £65,000 grant award to Badenoch Broadband and Communication to upgrade the current 30MB service to a 100MB. The funding will support upgrading 6 hilltop masts and equipment in 170 customers properties (both homes and businesses), to ensure local people continue to have access to this vital service.

The next deadline for applications to the main fund is the 30<sup>th</sup> November. If you have a project you would like to discuss, please contact Carol Masheter - [carol.masheter@sse.com](mailto:carol.masheter@sse.com) or visit the website for eligibility and guidance. <https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/stronelairst/>

**Coming soon** - The Panel will be announcing a new **Apprenticeship Grant** fund in the New Year which will be open to local business to support employing a Modern Apprenticeship. If you would be interested in finding out more about this funding opportunity, please contact Carol Masheter for further information.

To learn more about a modern apprenticeships and training frameworks please visit <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/apprenticeships/modern-apprenticeships>

## Winter Thoughts

---

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.

Edith Sitwell



The colour of springtime is in the flowers the colour of winter is in the imagination.

Terri Guillemets





## Contact Information

---

### **Church of Scotland**

Contact: [RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Telephone 07555750915

### **Community Website**

[www.laggan.com](http://www.laggan.com)

### **Laggan Community Council**

Contact: [info@laggan.com](mailto:info@laggan.com) [chaircc@laggan.com](mailto:chaircc@laggan.com) [secretarylcc@laggan.com](mailto:secretarylcc@laggan.com) or  
[treasurerlcc@laggan.com](mailto:treasurerlcc@laggan.com)

### **Laggan Community Hall**

Contact: [cathyslimon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathyslimon@hotmail.co.uk)

Telephone 01528 544309

### **Laggan Community Housing Ltd**

Contact: [sheena.feithbuidhe@icloud.com](mailto:sheena.feithbuidhe@icloud.com)

Telephone: 01528 544722

### **Laggan Forest Trust**

Contact: [business@lagganforest.com](mailto:business@lagganforest.com)

[www.lagganforest.com](http://www.lagganforest.com)

Telephone: 01528 544366

### **Laggan Heritage**

Contact: [info@lagganheritage@gmail.com](mailto:info@lagganheritage@gmail.com)