

THE GLENFARG NEWSLETTER

Issue 266 March 2026



Suggested Donation: £1.00

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Editorial

Welcome to the March edition of the Newsletter.

Our beautiful cover photo was taken by Emma Cheape (@cheapephotography), a local award-winning equestrian and wildlife photographer. Inside are two updates on red squirrel activity along with articles from many of our local organisations.

Thank you to our regular newsletter contributors for their updates. Thanks also to our columnists for some very interesting articles. Anyone wishing to add a one-off article or regular column please contact me.

We are aiming to produce a newsletter every quarter in the first weeks of March, June, September and December. We can't do this without input from the community so please keep them coming in. All contributions welcome, big or small.

Alex Swanson

alexswanson605@gmail.com

Useful Contacts

Service / Organisation	Name	Contact
Community Council	Chair: Margaret Ponton Secretary: Ian Pilmer	830 611 secretary@glenfarg.org
P&K Councillors	Cllrs. Cuthbert, Freshwater, Robertson	
Police	Non-emergency contact Crimestoppers	101 0800 555 111
Household Utilities Helplines	Scottish Water Scottish Hydro Electric	0800 0778 778 0800 300 999
Dog Warden		dogcontrol@pkc.gov.uk
Perthshire Advertiser	Mark Crossey	830 201
Arngask School	Suzanne Miller	Arngask@pkc.gov.uk
Accordion & Fiddle	Graham Berry Jackie Raeburn	07768 507859 07960 804039
Badminton Club	Alan Clark	830 246
Beavers	Suzanne King	07596 019330
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Community Cinema	Doreen Ashton	ashton.doreen@yahoo.com
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Folk Club	Duncan McNab	glenfargfolkclub.scot

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Old Folks Association	Philip Ponton	830 611
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Scouts	Christine Morton	07939 466552
SWI	Linda Martin	07771 632830
Tennis & Pickleball Club	Tim Corcoran Charles Young	07790 870561 07786 898737
Total Body Circuit	Julie Ramsay	830 370
Village Hall	Karen Jade	bookings@glenfargcommunitycentre.org.uk
Village Website	Janet Watson	07747 026404 www.glenfarg.org
Wine Club	Steve Mee	stephenmee1949@gmail.com
Zumba	Gale Paterson	07823 334476

Scout Cub and Beaver Update



Night Hike – Pitmedden Forest

What do you do in this perpetually wet weather? Staying indoors for all scout meetings is boring. Tuesday night before half term the scouts went for a night hike in the rain. There were puddles on the road as we left the village in a community bus.

The excited scouts were all talking at the same time on the bus, pleased that they were getting out and doing something a bit different. Arriving at the starting point Duncan, a mountain leader, took Cameron's patrol out of the bus to work out the route and who was leading while Moira's patrol did the same on the bus allowing Robert to get his boots on without getting too wet.

Cameron's patrol set off followed 5 minutes later by Matthew leading the first leg for the Eagles. Crossing the wooden footbridge, one at a time, with the raging torrent flowing under it they speculated how much longer the bridge would last as it was pretty ropey. The Eagles caught up with the Falcons at the view point, not much of a view point in that weather, the lights, including the temporary traffic lights were visible in Auchtermuchty and a vague outline of the Lomond Hills.

We continued as two separate groups and it was explained to the new scouts that the maximum party size of 8 is a safety feature. With small groups it's harder to lose people off the back or sides of the hill. Gregor was leading the way to the second check point when they were all distracted by Matthew. He had picked up a couple of stones he identified as quartzite and banged them together creating a glow. From then on Matthew helped the others to find similar stones. We could locate the excited boys easily from the noise they were making, from the smell they could have been getting actual sparks at times despite the rain.

When we met up with the other group for a break someone announced that the glow obtained by hitting the stones together as “cool. Pointing all our head torches down we created a pool of light in which the new scouts Matthew, Gregor and Izzy were invested and Oli reinvested in the troop.

The scouts rearranged their groups and we headed back towards the minibus, retracing our steps. Half-way back the sole came off Freya’s boot and she couldn’t walk in them. Cameron volunteered to carry Duncan’s rucksack – he reckoned that was a better deal than carrying Freya the 2 km back to the minibus. The groups were reorganised quickly with Moira accompanying Freya on her Dad’s back down the road towards Auchtermuchty and the rest of the party returning through the woods to the minibus.

Gregor discovered just how slippery muddy tracks on downhill slopes can be. He had the sense not to follow someone’s suggestion to run but he still ended up incredibly muddy to the point he needed to pull his waterproof trousers down to sit on the bus.

Freya, Duncan and Moira were sitting on a wall in the rain waiting for us at the junction in Auchtermuchty. Freya was carried onto the bus by her Dad and sat with her bare foot in her Dad’s spare hat for the journey back to the village. The chatter on the return journey was even louder than it had been on the way out. All had enjoyed the night hike, including the two parents who had come along for the experience.

Shrove Tuesday



The cubs critically watched each other weigh, mix and cook pancakes before sitting to enjoy the fruits of their labour with raspberry jam.



Community Centre Update

If you have not been in the main hall recently you will have missed the new door that is being installed in the corridor. If you have seen it, you will know it's not completed yet but even in its current condition hall users are reporting that there is no longer a cold blast down the corridor into the hall or kitchen when the main door is opened.

The hall has successfully applied to "Lochelbank" for a grant to upgrade the electricity distribution board for the main hall which will allow us to extend the 3-phase electricity into the schoolhouse. The hall will be unavailable for a few days while the work is undertaken and we are waiting to hear from the electrician when he proposes to start the work. Once completed we will only have one electricity supply to the hall and one standing charge.

We received two grants, one from "the Greener Living Fund" and one from "Binn Windfarm" to purchase some kitchen equipment for the schoolhouse kitchen and create a commercial grade kitchen for the preparation, cooking and serving of food. We have money for plug in induction hobs, a plug in cooker, pots, pans, utensils and to pay for food handling training courses. As the cooking equipment is plug in it is not fixed in any particular position and can be easily relocated when the hospitality extension happens.

Glenfarg Curling Club

David Burgess



Glenfarg Curling Club have supported some local Glenfarg residents to try curling with support from our local coach Cam Gaudin supported by Douglas Fraser. Our newest members have enjoyed diving into curling for free and even signed up before the Winter Olympics had started! Glenfarg Curling Club are delighted to have supported new curlers onto the ice and look forward to seeing our newest members develop! If you are interested in finding out more about curling then follow us on Facebook (Glenfarg Curling Club) and get in touch! You could be the next Bruce Mouat or Jen Dodds!



Glenfarg & Duncriveie in Bloom

Avril McCaffrey



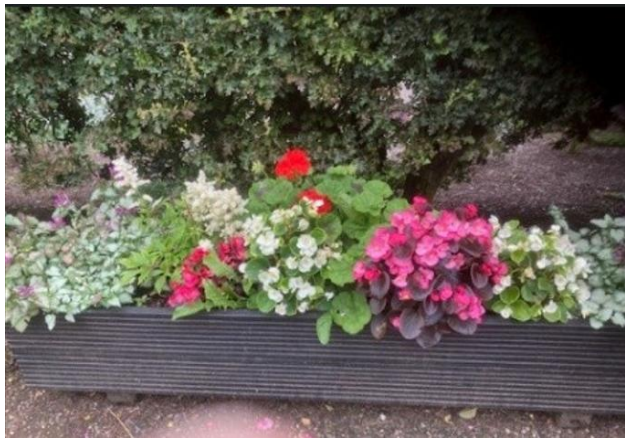
As we emerge from our Winter retreat, we are looking forward to Spring and the prospect of brighter weather. We are also starting to consider our activities and plans for 2026.

As there hasn't been a lot of activity since the December newsletter was issued, we thought it might be an idea to give you a "history lesson" about Glenfarg & Duncriveie in Bloom and the Glenfarg Green, as well as setting out some of our projects for the coming year.

HISTORY OF GLENFARG AND DUNCRIEVIE IN BLOOM

GDIB was formed on 13th October 2005 with the aim of improving the environment of the village of Glenfarg and neighbouring hamlet of Duncriveie for the benefit of all residents and the attraction of visitors. The local school children designed the logo and gave the group the motto "A Community Making a Difference".

Over the years GDIB undertook many projects including the creation of the area at the train stop (with help from the school children), the restoration of the war memorial area, repair of the riverbank erosion east of the footbridge in the Green, clearing the 150m strip of land adjacent to the wall along the south verge



on Main Street to create a grass area, as well as developing a wild meadow at Dupplin - all of which certainly made a difference.

Including planters, troughs and baskets, GDIB is now responsible for almost 70 floral display units throughout Glenfarg and Duncreevie, as well as beds at Dupplin and Ash Grove. They are all planted up in Spring and cleared out in the Autumn.

Watering and grass-cutting

Members of the community join our watering and grass-cutting rotas during the summer months. This enables us to keep our plants in full bloom and healthy and maintain the grass area along the south verge, the paths through the Green and the gardens around the Community Hall.

Income

We receive an annual grant from PKC which covers the cost of the plants, compost and fertiliser. Our main income comes from regular monthly donations from generous members of the local community, as well as the collection tin from the shop, who also donated the seeds for our plant sale, for which we are most grateful. We also raise funds to cover our running costs by organising various events, i.e. plant stalls, open garden days etc. Our costs include consumables, vehicles and equipment, insurance and fuel, as well as some minor expenses such as stationery.

Committee

The GDIB committee meets regularly to discuss plans and manage the business ongoing, Our AGM, to which everybody is welcome, is usually held in May. The members include Doreen Ashton Chairperson, Rosemary Johnston treasurer, Alison Harrison minute secretary, Avril McCaffrey secretary, Philip Ponton maintenance manager, Andy Fenwick and Ann Caudrey.

Although there is a lot of work to be done, especially during the summer months, it is a very sociable activity and a great way to meet other people. There is a lot more work we could and should be doing to tidy up the village, but we simply don't have the resources available. We are always looking for additional help, and would welcome anyone who would like to

join us in any capacity, either on the committee, or with any of our activities.

We hope our floral displays enhance the appearance of both villages and that they brighten your days (especially when it is dreich). We get great satisfaction when we see our plans coming to life in colour and we like to feel that we are making a contribution to the community to which we all belong.

PROJECTS FOR 2026

Our first meeting of this year is due on 4th March and we will be discussing our plans for the year. One thing we are progressing is the replacement of the troughs on the south verge as some of them are beginning to deteriorate. We are in discussion with PKC who, through their 'Community Pay Back' scheme, build timber planters for charities and even deliver them to site.

Due to the success of our plant sale last year, we intend to hold another one in the Spring.

THE STORY OF THE GLENFARG GREEN

Glenfarg Green, with its beautiful trees, pond and the river Farg gently flowing through it, is a delightful place to walk through, run through, or just sit to rest and relax. Most of all, it is for all just to enjoy. It is a living and vibrant centre of our community and everyone is welcome there. The area, which is situated in the centre of the village of Glenfarg, is approximately 2.5 acres. However, it was not always a village green and it did not always look as it does now.

It was originally a coal merchant's yard and wild grassland until 1991, when it was taken over by Mr & Mrs Lascelles who lived in the Bank House at Ladeside. They were both self-taught gardening enthusiasts and they devoted 17 years of their energy and expertise to developing and caring for Glenfarg Green, including landscaping and planting a great variety of trees, bulbs, plants and wildflowers.

Concerned that this wonderful open space in the middle of the village might be built upon, when they decided to leave Glenfarg in 2008 they generously gifted Glenfarg Green to Perth and Kinross Council for the benefit of the Glenfarg community.

Left to right: Sybil Galbraith (Secretary GDIB), Rob Bryce (Perth & Kinross Council), Donald Mackenzie (Chairman GDIB), Margaret and Brian Lascelles at the handover of Glenfarg Green in 2008.



Mrs Lascelles said “We have had great pleasure in creating the Glenfarg Green and we share in the pleasure that it has given to others”. She explained the various stages of development:

- April 1991 - the field and coal yard were acquired
- Autumn of 1992 - four thousand bulbs were planted
- Summer of 1993 - the pond was dug and the coalyard was landscaped.

They also installed the bridge over the river Farg that now links the Green with the privately owned area on the other side.

The formal section of the garden with the waterfall at the entrance to the Green from Ladeside still belongs to the Bank House.

GDIB undertook a project to have all the trees listed and create a tree register. All trees in the green have name tags, together with names of sponsors, who contributed to the costs. A waterproof display board with a map showing their whereabouts can be seen at the entrance to the Green from Greenbank Road.

Perth and Kinross Council, in conjunction with GDIB, share responsibility for the upkeep of the Green. Over the years many volunteers from the local community have developed and maintained the Glenfarg Green. The grass is cut regularly during the Summer and the pond is cleared from overgrown reeds in the Autumn when the community comes out in force to do a clean up, including trimming, weeding, cutting back and doing a general tidy up.

We are all lucky to live in such a beautiful little village with an amazing community. Our aim is to continue the legacy started by the first GDIB committee way back in 2005, and to protect the generous gift we received from Mr & Mrs Lescelles in 2008.



We would also like to acknowledge the help and support provided by the many loyal members of the community, local businesses and other organisations including the GITS, Glenfarg Village Store, Glenfarg Community for the use of the hall, the Binn Group, Glenfarg Garage, as well as the many trades people who have helped us over the years.

You can contact:

Doreen Ashton (ashton.doreen@yahoo.com)

Philip Ponton (philip.ponton@btinternet.com)

Avril McCaffrey (avrilmccaffreycrs@gmail.com)

Glenfarg Community Cinema

Mervyn Cooper



Food & Film Night - We've enjoyed some fantastic evenings at the Community Cinema this winter, and the highlight of the season is still ahead. Our much-loved themed food-and-film night takes place on **13 March**, and this year's choice is *Brooklyn*.

Set in Ireland and New York — with a memorable Italian-American family at its heart — the film gave us plenty of inspiration for our menu. We've embraced the Italian theme, and thanks to the professional catering talent within our community, we can look forward to a truly delicious evening.



Tickets are available now from the village shop. This event is always popular, and because catering numbers must be confirmed in advance, **tickets will not be sold at the door**. Be sure to pick yours up early.

And to Round Off the Season...

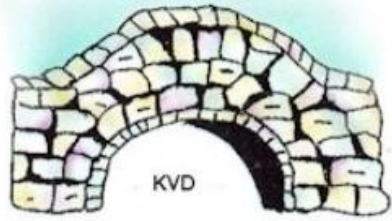
Our final screening of the winter season takes place on **10 April** with *The Father*, starring Anthony Hopkins — a firm favourite with Glenfarg audiences across many films. It's a powerful, beautifully acted drama and a fitting way to bring this year's programme to a close.



Kinross-shire Volunteer Drivers

Kinross-shire Volunteer Drivers (KVD) have been delivering a vital service for some of the most vulnerable residents in our community for over 40 years.

By providing assisted transport to enable clients to attend mainly health appointments, we deliver a door-to-door service, with our volunteers always remaining with the client. KVD operate in the Kinross-shire area including Glenfarg and support clients in attending appointments throughout the NHS Network.



Bridging the Gap

To Book a Volunteer Driver and for more details of the charges that apply

Contact us on 01577 840196



Volunteering for KVD

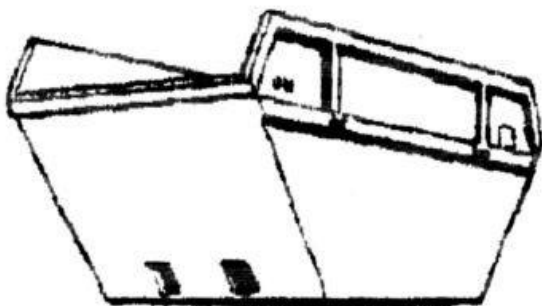
Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare? Why don't you consider volunteering for KVD. I have been a volunteer for over 10 years and I can honestly say it is one of the most rewarding things you can do to support those clients in our community.

Give me a call and I'll talk you through how it works

David Aird: 07834 474799



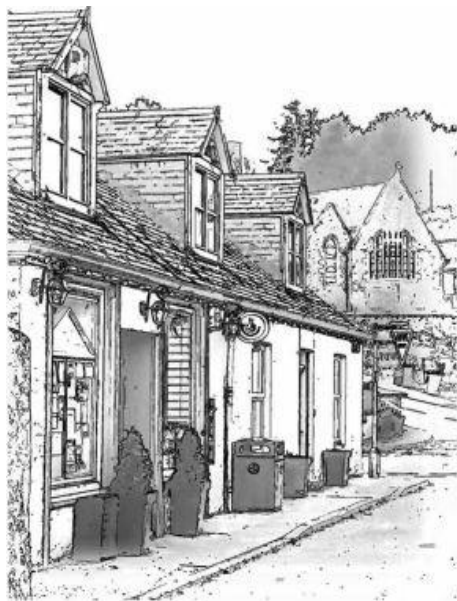
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Kinross and Ochil Walking Group

Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland

www.ramblers.org.uk/kinross-ochil



Unfortunately, we have had to walk in the rain recently.

However, as you can see from our smiling faces this has not dampened the mood.

Below are the details of our upcoming walks in March. For details of our walks in January and February please see our website

www.ramblers.org.uk/kinross-ochil or contact the walks coordinator.

Tuesday Short Walks

Unless otherwise stated, these walks are usually about two hours long and a fairly gentle four miles. We often follow the walk with a visit to a cafe, farm-shop or pub for refreshments, but this is entirely optional.

Tuesday 3rd March, Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood Circular

Walk from Scotlandwell to Kinnesswood, returning via Portmoak Moss. Great views over Loch Leven and the surrounding hills. From Portmoak Moss a short detour to see the Scotlandwell wash house and well.

Tuesday 17th March, Culross to Preston Island Circular

From the Culross East car park the walk starts along the shore path running parallel to the railway, then follows the gravel path around the 'island' with views of the Forth bridges and remains of the mining and salt industries before turning inland and returning to the start.

Tuesday 31st March, Townhill Loch and Woods

From the car park the walk follows the path clockwise around the lake before turning off along the old railway embankment and continuing with a walk through Townhill Woods, eventually returning to complete the circuit of the Loch.

Weekend Longer Walks

Weekend walks are a degree more challenging and of varied longer lengths. We advise bringing along a packed lunch and drink and that you have appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.



Sunday 1st March, Balbirnie and Star Moss

A delightful walk through Balbirnie Estate, past the ancient Stob Cross and a Victorian graveyard. Then along a footpath, ascending a small steep hill and over the fields to the pretty village of Star. Return mainly via a footpath. A leisurely 5.5 miles.

Saturday 14th March, Collessie and Monimail Circular

The walk passes through the historic hamlet of Collessie and proceeds north over Cairney Hill, then returns south on part of the Pictish Trail (a 750 km cycle route between Caithness and Edinburgh) to Monimail and the renovated 13th century Bishop's Tower. The terrain is quiet roads, tracks and open fields with the odd fence climb.

Sunday 29th March, House of the Binns and Abercorn

This walk follows part of the John Muir Way to Hopetoun House and Abercorn. Fairly good paths and tracks. Lovely views of the Firth of Forth and Blackness Castle

For further details of how to book a place and where to meet us for weekend walks or for general enquiries, please contact:

Carol Wilkinson on 07375 058542.

Arngask Home Farm



The winter period at Arngask Home Farm is all about preparation for what is to come. For weeks, Andrew plans meticulously (seed by seed) how the market garden will look for 2026, mapping out a complete rotational system that will provide enough produce for veg boxes, farmers' markets, the horse box and all of our wholesale customers. All of the seeds have now been bought and, this year, we have set our sights high. The growing area is tripling and we have invested in four times the amount of seed. It is a huge expansion in response to the growing demand for chemical-free, direct-from-the-farm veg and salads. We were blown away by the support and excitement for what we produced in 2025, and we have some very big plans for 2026 as we continue to contribute towards feeding our community and customers.

The horse box honesty shop has remained open throughout the winter and is filled each week with lots of yummy goodies — from cakes and bread to pork, fresh non-homogenised milk made in Perthshire, our preserves and so much more.

Our pigs are now spread across a number of sites and we've joined forces with incredible neighbours to help expand our pig numbers. They are also very good at clearing woodland and preparing sites for growing. We have welcomed lots of new piglets over the winter period and, in February, we welcomed 25 piglets in 24 hours. That was a long night!

Currently housed in one of our barns, we have 325 Leghorn chicks growing beautifully. They will become our main laying flock moving forward and will likely start to lay around May, so our sights are firmly pinned on early summer for a more consistent egg supply.

In January, Arngask welcomed Adam as our Head of Sales. He has already begun the big job of launching Eilidh's mum Anne's preserves into the wholesale market. At Scotland's Trade Show at the SEC, Granny Doreen's Sweet Tomato Chutney won a Bronze Award in the savoury section. As you travel across Scotland and further afield, you might start to spot our

Arngask preserves in retail spaces and even on menus. We're incredibly excited to grow this side of our business and bring a taste of Arngask across the UK.

Soon, we will launch our online store as an Arngask deli space where, if all goes well, we will be shipping some of our produce, merchandise and other Scottish goods UK-wide.

We are so passionate about those in our community and further afield tasting our produce. It's a piece of our hearts, and we're very proud to be growing and producing food in Glenfarg.



Glenfarg Garage

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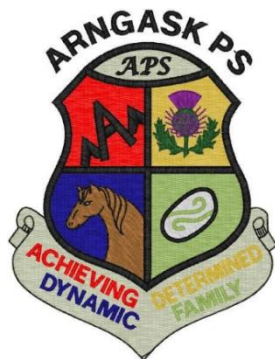
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Arngask Primary and Nursery

Nicola J R Marshall - Principal Teacher



P4-7 were very lucky to be one of the first classes to see and experience the Last Letter of Mary Queen of Scots exhibition in Perth Museum on the 23rd of January. They had the opportunity to explore the exhibition, see the letter and then listen to Barbara Henderson, author, who brought to life her story of The Boy, The Witch and The Queen of Scots. Both classes are now proud owners of a signed copy of this novel.

All classes within Arngask took part in the annual Burns' Poetry competition, with some fabulous renditions of poems using Scots' language. Our P1-4 winner is Lily showcasing Sair Teeth with the P5-7 being Hilary, reciting The Magic Pizza. Mrs Poller, from Kinross Rotary, was very impressed with the standard of our finalists- well done everyone!



In recent weeks, P6+7 have been honing their hospitality skills by volunteering at the Coffee Morning, taking orders and serving the scrummy cakes. All children that have been there so far have really



enjoyed this experience mingling with members of the community and developing their skills for the workplace.

Thank you to the Coffee Morning volunteers for encouraging our young people.

P3 had a recent visit from Nature Scot to deliver some brown trout eggs, and today they have 21 hatched and only 1 death! So far so good! P3 have a rota to check their eggs in their class fridge twice a day and soon they will be heading off to the North Queich to watch their *alevins* be released. A return visit in June is scheduled to take part in electrofishing, where the parr are stunned and caught so the class can see the difference in their growth. Some minibeast hunting takes place too, to identify a food source for the parr.

P1/2 were learning the poem Jack and Jill. As well as saying the poem we followed instructions on how to draw a robin and a pigeon. We then cut up bricks to make patterns to build a wall for our birds, Jack and Jill, to sit on. We decided they flew away to a wall before coming back to the hill. Later that day we went outside to do the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch.

The nursery has decided to have a big overhaul of the garden due to areas looking a bit tired and weather beaten. We have discussed with the children in great detail what changes they would like to make and created some floor book pages so that they have a visual to work

from. We like to try and upcycle or repurpose as much as we can which is where we are looking for your help. There are several items we are looking for from leftover pipes, swimming noodles, leftover colourful garden paint and much more. We have a few ideas of items to be built out of leftover decking wood or pallets which would be a great addition to our mud kitchen.



We will post some lists on the Glenfarg Grapevine of items we are looking for in case anyone is having a clear out or would like to donate any items. If you are handy with a hammer and a saw and would like to help build one of our items for us that would be very welcome. Any help would be greatly appreciated and will help give our children an updated fun and engaging environment to play in outside.



ARNGASK HOME FARM

Perthshire | Scotland



Arngask Home Farm is a small farm just outside Glenfarg. We rear rare breed pigs for pork, produce free range rainbow and brown chicken eggs, duck eggs, chemical-free veg and host events alongside Old Fergie Farm.

Our honesty horse box at our back entrance is open Mon-Sun, 8am-10pm and is filled with lots of goodies! Thursday-Monday is the best time to come, with organic milk, fresh bread and pastries, cakes and bakes, yoghurt, charcuterie, pork, beef, lamb and pies and sausage rolls.

 hello@arngaskhomefarm.co.uk

 www.arngaskhomefarm.co.uk




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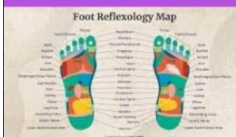
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Janet Watson – Greener Glenfarg

Raingardens

Will it ever stop raining? I haven't heard of anyone getting flooded this time, so I hope everyone is safe. However, it does remind us that this problem is only likely to increase. Our local drainage system is old, so not built for increased rainfall. Greener Glenfarg has always been aware of this and in our discussions with Scottish Water we have talked about the need to cope with surface water and take the pressure off the drains. So, what could we do, either individually or as a group?

One possibility is the creation of Raingardens – landscaped areas designed to temporarily collect, filter and absorb rainwater runoff from roofs, driveways or patios. This could be achieved by creating a shallow depression, lining with

perforated plastic and planting with plants which tolerate both wet and dry conditions.

Or it could be a planter, interrupting the downpipe from the roof of a building. This will allow rainwater to be soaked up by the plants, and a much smaller quantity of water dispersed into the drain or watercourse. Scottish Water is currently putting



these raingardens into communities that have experienced flooding, and we look forward to hearing their evaluation of the schemes.

In Kinross, the Kinross-shire Civic Trust has created a raingardens trail from the Park & Ride down to the shore of the loch.

Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2026 - 2040

Greener Glenfarg members contributed to the consultation on this draft plan. The plan considers seven topics - buildings, transport, waste, energy, business & industry, agriculture, land use & forestry. Under each section, there is a routemap laying out the timings of key papers and the completion of their recommendations.

The plan is available online:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-climate-change-plan-2026-2040>

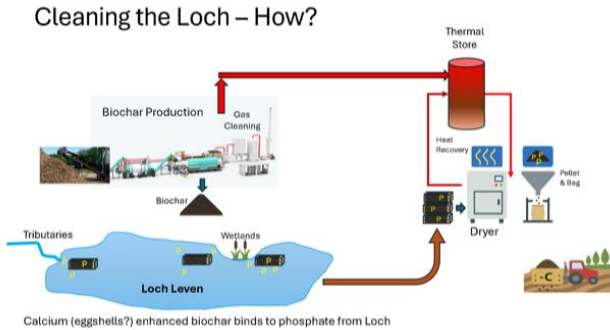
District Heat Networks

District Heat Networks (DHN) can provide the lowest cost, low carbon alternative to individual household gas/oil boilers. They work by collecting unused or wasted heat from the local area to create hot water, which is then sent via a network of underground pipes into homes and buildings. Customers will save on both their upfront capital costs, and their ongoing costs when they join a heat network, compared to installing a heat pump serving just their own building. No need to rip apart your home either, existing pipes and radiators will work with the new system.

An example of this is SWAN, the South Westminster Area Network, which will become one of the largest heat networks in the UK, taking natural heat from the River Thames, the sewage system and the Underground system. And in Europe, many countries are well into the creation of heat networks. In 2000, the percentage of houses supplied by DHNs ranged from Iceland (95%), Denmark (68%), Estonia / Poland / Sweden / Czech Republic / Finland (all around 50%), down to 2% at the bottom of the list. And which country was that? Oh, it's the UK!

So, shouldn't we be doing more to create DHNs here? Well, a group in Kinross has been exploring this option for Kinross and Milnathort. Several members of Greener Glenfarg attended a recent Climate Café meeting to hear an update on progress. CATCH-LochLeven (Climate Action Through Community Heating) has been investigating several sources of heat which together can

deliver the resilience and cost profile required by the towns. An interesting option under consideration is to use BioChar, made by high temperature



heating of woodchip in the absence of oxygen. The process generates a lot of heat to feed the network, creating a charcoal-like substance which can soak up phosphates. Why would this be useful? Well, we have all seen the increase of blue-green algae in Loch Leven – the result of runoff from fertilised fields along with rising temperatures. Submersed sacks of the BioChar can bind phosphates from the water, thus improving the water quality, acting to reduce the algae blooms and combating the health dangers for us and other wildlife. The BioChar can be spread on fields to enhance soil quality.

CATCH is exploring the best legal vehicle that will be able to raise funds for progress. This may be charitable and likely run on a not-for-profit basis to maximise the benefit for the community. To find out more about CATCH keep watching the Kinross-shire Newsletter or contact info@catch-lochleven.org.

A good source of information about DHNs is the Danish Board of District Heating <https://dbdh.org/>

If you would like to become a member of the Greener Glenfarg Biodiversity Group, email janet_watson@mac.com

Understanding dogs and their funny habits

Canine Correspondent Christine Fotheringham

We see dogs behaving in some unusual ways, some more subtle than others and many nauseating to us humans. They are simply being dogs and I can explain why.

Why do they sniff bottoms and crotches?

Whereas our identity is mainly in the face, theirs is in the anal gland scent. Everything about the dog is in that scent, like health, age and sexual status. When we want to engage with another human we raise our head so our face can be noticed, dogs do the same with their tail, but those who don't want to be noticed or don't like the human or dog, lower their tail or even sit down to cover their scent up. Like dogs, we also have anal glands but the scent is thankfully less pungent and informative nowadays. So they are simply getting to know you.



Why do dogs growl at dogs coming over to play?

Dogs need personal space, just like us, to allow us to choose whether to get closer. Even if the dog bounding over to get up-close-and-personal wants to be friends, the recipient may feel trapped and growling is the only way to make them back off. If a stranger got close and over friendly with you and you couldn't back off, you might do the same. So every dog is entitled to warn with a growl at a dog rushing in to its face, it is a perfectly natural behaviour that means "please don't do that, if you continue I may have to bite you". Growling is incredibly helpful as it gives us a chance to change whatever is upsetting the dog.

Why do dogs eat poo?

Because it tastes good. I told you some of these topics might be nauseating. If they eat their own it is to cover up their traces, a dog

should never feel this way so seek behavioural help. However, eating the droppings of other creatures is usually nutritious, especially if your dog is malnourished from a cheap, poor quality diet. What ever you do, don't rush over to your dog telling it to stop as they might think you want it too and snaffle it down even more quickly!

Why do dogs lick your face?

Sorry to burst your bubble but it's not love; dogs don't love. What you think is love is simply dogs checking if their social group is safe and attempting to turn things around if it is not. Licking your face or lips is a legacy from when they were wild creatures and licked around the mother's mouth to get her to regurgitate food for them. It's your dog acting like a puppy.

Why do dogs jump up?

Again, their instinct is to reach the mouth of the food provider but dogs jump up because humans have encouraged them to do it. Sorry, but its true. When you bend over, engage eye contact, smile and speak to them you are inviting them to reach the face that is doing this....and then we complain!? Get down to their height to say hello or, if you don't want to engage with the dog, fold your arms and avoid eye contact.

Ok, so now I imagine those reading this without affection for dogs have been sufficiently repulsed to dislike them even more, but I hope not. Here's a couple that may impress you and even endear you to dogs.

Why do some dogs kick back after toileting?

To mark the ground and leave an additional scent from their paws. Some dogs, both female and male, kick back so enthusiastically that they do a handstand! This is to leave the scent at nose height to passing dogs. It is not to cover up their urine/poo as they are predators and at the top of the food chain here in Scotland so there's no need. They are very proud of what they've produced and its



covering scent - it's to mark the ground as if to say "take a look at that!" – clever eh?

Why do dogs freeze when seeing another dog?

It is to get the advantage of being able to see the dog but that dog not seeing them. Dogs only see things that move (we are the opposite, when things move our vision blurs) so if they can crouch perfectly still, they disappear to the approaching dog. Here's a training tip for you – when calling your dog, wave your arms, if you stand still they will hear you but can't see you.

Why do friendly dogs curl their lips, show their teeth and seem to chatter?

To get a better smell of you and therefore more information. Cats practice this too. Did you ever watch the film Hannibal Lector? He was supposed to be the only human to retain a vomeronasal cavity, or Jacobson's organ. Feel the ridges at the top front of your mouth with your tongue. We used to have an opening there that took air to a vomeronasal cavity above the roof of our mouth. Dogs still have it and what you see is called the Flehman's response. So if you see a dog curling its top lip or 'smiling', yet they otherwise appear friendly, they are instinctively picking up pheromones rather than smells....a most enjoyable activity.



Next time I'll share some really interesting cases I dealt with as a Dog Behaviourist. If you would like me to cover a certain subject please do get in contact

Christine Fotheringham

Retired Dog Behaviourist but currently offering Puppy Training

07920 428312

christineandfern@gmail.com

See Christine's one-to-one Puppy Training on Facebook



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Glenfarg Freewheelers

Tara Winterton

The most popular event: Christmas Treasure Hunt December 18th

A fabulous group of 15 people were divided into three teams. Each team had a mixture of pedallers, e-bikers, racers and more stately cyclists. Teams were given maps with markers on it and the trick was to match the right “bike part” to the place name on the map before setting off. Teams were given 2 hours to plan and bike to as many points as they could and try to rectify the situation with swift biking if they got the wrong labels. Confused? It’ll become clear if you come and join the next summer or Christmas treasure hunt event with whatever kind of wheels or wheelers you choose.

BELL	CHURCH BRAE
DRIVE TRAIN	RAILWAY BRIDGE
CABLE	SPRINGHALL power line



We had great feedback from the participants and many requests for repeat events. “It was such good fun, great lunch too” “what a great bunch of folk...thank you for being so welcoming” “There was a lot of effort went into making that run so smoothly”

The most regular event: Thursday bike rides

Regular attenders of the Thursday rides have continued to drink coffee, and eat cake at the village coffee morning and then take off on a ride. These vary each week depending on the wishes of the group. Trish and Alison have been taking new routes and doing extra visits to the Larder and the Loch. Scott and Avril have set a new standard of off-road biking which has taken groups into new areas and sometimes with rather dubious route finding.

The muddiest event: Off-riding

Most Thursday regulars opted out of a ride on Thursday February 2nd due to more terrible weather. However, Scott, Tim, Ced and Tara adapted their ride through the tunnels to a “drier” alternative of core paths. We headed through Lochend windfarm only to be met by two locked gates and some cattle which we took a diversion for – not funny with e-bikes. The next half of the ride on core paths involved a wade through mud/sheep up a steep hill. We met our challenges bravely and some of us won’t be going on that route again! Please keep core paths passable!



The best supported events: Bike maintenance

Neill McDonald helped the Freewheeler crew to service all our bikes. It was a busy day sorting new pedals, a wobbly saddle, a bent axle, two punctures and more cleaning, all helped along by coffee, flapjacks and Soup and a Chat.

Glenfarg Freewheelers and community are benefitting massively from the input from Neill and PKC. Neill is the cycling and sustainable transport supervisor for PKC. His job is to facilitate safer cycling and remove barriers to cycling through the delivery of maintenance and confidence sessions. He develops cycling through PKC and creates networks with different hubs.

Read all about Neill and his role in PKC in next edition of Glenfarg Newsletter, but if anyone wants to learn more about maintaining bikes, please don't miss out! Just contact us and join our Freewheeler maintenance days.



And we can help him by getting on our bikes as soon as the weather turns warmer.

The future events: Dates for your diaries

Children to be accompanied by an adult please.

Community maintenance sessions. Led by Neill McDonald

1. Trailside repairs **Monday March 16th 2026** 11am to 1pm. Neill will lead a session on essential repairs in case things go wrong. Essential kit, repairs and tricks to get you safely back home. Soup and Chat available afterwards. £5 donation

2. Brakes and more complicated maintenance **Monday 18th May** 11am to 1pm

3 and 4. Cleaning and other requested maintenance sessions. Dates to be **August and October**

5. Check and cleaning session. We are aware that Neill can only do Mondays. So for all those who work or study, we will pencil in the weekend of **April 25/26** to run this session. This date might change so keep looking at social media Facebook (#Glenfarg Freewheelers) and Whatsapp

Further requests for weekend maintenance workshops. Please let us know your preferred topics and dates

Dr Bike session led by Neill McDonald. Monday April 13th 10 - 3pm

In this session Neill and Freewheelers will check your bikes and make minor adjustments or recommendations. We will offer a bike cleaning, led by Callum Halliday for a donation too.

Family event - bike skills – led by Active travel team Monday April 13th

The popular **obstacle course** will be back and a **treasure hunt** for younger members of the family. We always link in with school parents for this event and encourage kids to get on their bikes for a lot of fun. Neill and colleagues have always made this a great event. Bring your picnics!



Bike Confidence sessions

1. Building Confidence: **Thursdays 11am to 1pm, starting March 12th** Glenfarg community centre. All about bike handling, efficiency and road sense, led by Neill McDonald. This session will go at your pace and aim to meet your individual needs. Please let us know if you are interested. Give it a go!

2. Biking confidently and biking further: **Mondays 11am to 1 pm, starting March 23rd**. These sessions won't be every Monday and dates will be confirmed nearer the time. Neill will include some route finding, more efficient biking, building your confidence to go further and having fun

Freewheelers training sessions: Neill runs a session about every 6 weeks to the Freewheeler committee/group. We learn to service and repair the bikes and keep our running costs as low as possible. We raise money for parts and replacements but have managed to do the rest ourselves. This has been an incredible opportunity and we really want to share this with the whole community. Please feel welcome to join our group and learn a lot from Neill and help to keep Freewheelers going

To book your places on any of the above or ask any questions text 07436 419585 or email Bookfreewheelers@glenfarg.org For general enquiries email freewheelers@glenfarg.org





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Grow Club

Maud Swanson

January 2026 marked the start of the third year of Grow Club and you may be wondering why you should give it a go. The original poster from 2024 is below and I think our members will agree that most of these things really do happen.



In December we had a successful wreath-making session in the main hall and there were lots of lovely willow wreaths taken home for the festive season.

In January we took some hardwood cuttings of some of our favourite shrubs and checked out how well last year's selection: dogwood, weigela, blackcurrant and Virginia creeper had done. We also tried some 'winter sowing' in empty plastic milk bottles. Many summer-grown annual flowers, herbs and vegetables are fairly hardy and the seeds will survive outside (within a mini milk bottle greenhouse) until it's the right time for them to germinate. They should then grow slowly but strongly until they can be planted out in the spring or summer. That's the theory anyway - we'll let you know!

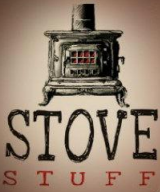


Our third activity (along with tea and biscuits) was to test whether the seeds we collected in the autumn would germinate.

Seeds were sown onto damp kitchen paper in ice-cube trays, covered with cling film and left for a week or two. If they germinate in this test, they should be fine to sow in pots in the next few months. You can try this with old packets of seeds too - many of them will germinate way past their 'sow-by' dates.

Why don't you come and join us on the last Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Village Hall meeting room (or outside in the veg garden when the weather is fine). For more information, message Maud on 07884072615 or Maud.swanson@gmail.com





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Tennis and Pickleball Club

Update

Tim Corcoran



Hello again. When you read this, tennis will be starting again in the park and the weeks of rain we are having in January and February will be distant memories.

As it was such a success last year, we are having mixed pairs again on Monday evenings, following on from Magda's coaching, which is 6 o'clock for adults and earlier for juniors. Ring either Tim or Magda for more information. Wednesday evening, instead of clubnight, we will have Open Night, when everyone is welcome to join us and play casual tennis.

We have a new addition to our activities at the Tennis Clubhouse. From mid-March, Amy Gornall, Glenfarg's own Pilates expert and cycling competitor will be holding Pilates classes for tennis players and anyone else who can't get a class at the village hall. Amy will have more details in the coming week.

This year is of course the club's centenary and we are planning a celebratory afternoon BBQ on Saturday the 30th of May. All current and previous members are invited to attend. More details to follow including the identity of the special guest!

The pickleball players are poised, ready for the rain to stop and for their leader Chas Young to return from his winter training camp. Everything's happening down at the Glenfarg Tennis Club. Come and join us.

Ring Tim on 07790870561 (Tennis) or Chas on 07786 898737 (Pickleball) for further information.



SWI

Scottish Women's Institutes

Spring at last which means preparations for the Kinross Show are ramping up. All members are encouraged to participate whether at an individual level or on the Community Entries:

Kinross Show, 8th August <https://www.kinross-show.co.uk/>

Our craft group continues on Tuesday mornings 10-12 until Easter working on an appliquéd cushion, 'Sun Bonnet Sue'. Non-members are welcome to come along and see what we get up to. We had a very interesting visit to Perth Museum having a guided tour including seeing the Stone of Scone & Mary Queen of Scots last letter, followed by lunch in the cafe.

Only 3 meetings left this year, last one in May.

March 12th 2pm

Dr Valentina Bold Heritage SWI Resources

April 9th 7pm

Heart Start Open meeting

All Welcome

May 14th AGM 2pm

Round up of the year

You may never have tried the SWI, why not give it a go?

For more information contact Linda Martin: 07771 632830

Water Treatment Works Update

A happy milestone for the Glenfarg WTW project: Our Red Squirrel Bridge is in use!

There's been a real happy buzz around the Glenfarg project team recently, as we had our first documented look at the squirrel bridge in action! Right from the beginning of community consultation, concerns were raised over the risk to the red squirrel population due to increased construction road traffic.

Taking this seriously, the Glenfarg project team, with support from the Eastern Lowland Red Squirrel Group and JK Ecology, installed a rope bridge last year. The bridge spans between an existing telegraph pole and neighbouring trees, crossing safely over the access road.

To encourage squirrels onto the bridge, Beccy from JK Ecology made several visits to the site to set up squirrel feeders. She was supported by our fantastic and ever-helpful Glenfarg Gateman, Jimmy Morrison, who also captured the first photo of a squirrel using the bridge. As you can imagine, it's not easy to catch them crossing!

Initially, feeders were installed at head height and partially filled, with additional nuts scattered on the ground. Once squirrels located the feeders, they were periodically raised up the tree/pole until they sat at the full height of the rope bridge. This was achieved using a pulley



system, which is also used to replenish the feeders by lowering them to ground level.

We've also now set up motion sensors connected to cameras at the top of the bridge. So, as well as Jimmy's photos, we're seeing (and hearing!) some lovely squirrel activity.

As Beccy can't be on site all the time, she named Jimmy our "squirrel champion", and he has been maintaining the feeders and monitoring the bridge (including the photos shown). He has been instrumental to its success. A huge thank you to Jimmy from the ESD environmental team!

The rope bridge is just one of many squirrel protection measures in place, alongside a strict speed limit, speed bumps, a gatehouse near the main squirrel crossing point, and toolbox talk for all operatives.

So far, the bridge is proving to be a hit with the squirrels as well as visitors to the project. Monitoring will continue for the duration of the project, and we hope to see increased usage as the squirrels adjust to the new surroundings.



We also look forward to sharing our film and photos with the community, as well as the Eastern Lowland Red Squirrel Group.

<https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/2023/06/21/introducing-the-new-eastern-lowlands-red-squirrel-group/>

Caroline McKenzie - Customer Manager, ESD Joint Venture

Wind Farm Funding for Local Projects

Malcolm Jack – Foundation Scotland



RWE Lochelbank Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund update

The first Round of 2026 closed for applications on 20th February, with decisions to be announced at the end of April. The second application deadline is 31st July 2026 for decisions in September. In the meantime, you can also contact Glenfarg Community Council who have funding available for microgrants.

2025 saw £24,039 awarded to 8 groups, including £9,221 to Glenfarg Community Centre to install commercial standard electrical supply in the Old School House, and £1,500 as a contribution to Perth Autism Support whose services benefit families in Glenfarg, Earn and more widely.

For more information check out

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/rwe-lochelbank>

Binn Wind Turbine Community Fund update

The Binn Wind Turbine Community Fund Panel made 16 awards totalling £28,988 at the tail end of 2025. This included grants spanning Glenfarg Community Transport Group, Glenfarg Freewheelers, the Glenfarg Community Centre for kitchen equipment, and a contribution to Perth Autism Support.

Precise dates and amounts available in 2026 are not yet confirmed, but we hope to open the Fund up again for applications in June. Keep an eye on <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/binn-wind-turbine-community-fund> for updates.



Binn Solar and BESS Farm Update

Kitty Lindsay

BLC Energy is a renewable energy development company specialising in developing solar PV and co-located battery storage projects across the UK. They are funded by one of Octopus Energy's funds, Octopus Energy Generation, and work closely with the Octopus Energy team to develop renewable energy projects that will help the U.K. achieve its' Net Zero targets.



We are pleased to confirm that the planning application has now been formally submitted to Perth & Kinross Council. The application reference is **25/01836/FLM**.

Supporting Glenfarg's Renewable Energy Ambitions

Glenfarg has a strong track record as a community that supports renewable energy and the transition to a lower-carbon future. The proposed Binn Solar & BESS Project aligns with this focus, contributing to local and national renewable energy targets and helping to increase the supply of clean, green electricity. As such, the project is intended to deliver clear environmental benefits alongside wider community benefits.

Community Benefit Fund Update

As part of the wider community benefit fund, we are exploring the potential to introduce a Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) once the project is built. This type of scheme allows households located near a renewable energy project to apply for discounts on their electricity bills.

While LEDS schemes are most commonly associated with wind farms, the same principles can apply to solar projects. Further information on how these schemes work is available here:

<https://localenergy.scot/casestudy/local-electricity-discount-schemes-leds/>

Octopus Renewable Infrastructure Trust (ORIT) already offers LEDS on one of its operational projects. We are keen to explore applying a similar approach to the solar projects we are developing with ORIT, including the proposed Binn project. We'll continue to share updates as the project progresses and as more detail becomes available.

Kitty Lindsay info@blcenergy.com , www.blcenergy.com



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Glenfarg Community Council Minutes - Extract

Glenfarg Community Council Business Meeting 7:30pm, Monday 7th July 2025, Glenfarg Community Centre (Village Hall).

Attendees: Cllrs Ponton, Pilmer, Christie, Melville, Ibbotson, PKC Cllr Watters and 3 members of the public.

Date of next GCC Business meeting Monday 2nd March 2026

Police Report From 17/11/2025 is as follows. Zero crimes recorded and approximately 11 Calls to Police Scotland were made regarding our Ward. A Road Traffic accident was reported on the 18/12/2025 Main Street, B996, Glenfarg and the matter was dealt with accordingly. Check out the Twitter page of @PSOPerthKin or #KinrossCPT and feel free to follow.

Police Community Team Activity: Police Scotland, often post on their Twitter page @PSOPerthKin with updates on what they are doing out and about in the local area under #KinrossCPT. Please feel free to follow. Kinross CPT would encourage members of the public to sign up to rural watch Scotland (www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk) and neighbourhood watch Scotland (www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk) for updates and alerts on local issues, crime prevention advice etc.

Speedwatch. Cllr Ponton raised the matter relating to the Community Speedwatch campaign and, whilst it hasn't commenced, it is hoped that an overall community campaign will commence during 2026. Cllr Ponton is to speak with the Chair of Milnathort Community Council regarding the matter. Action Cllr Ponton

Copperfields. Cllr Smart reported that a letter had been received by the owners of properties in the Copperfield' private housing development notifying them that the roads and pavements hand now been handed over to PKC.

Pavement on Duncrive Road between Elm Row and Wallace Park. A general discussion took place about the partial collapse of the pavement into the rear boundary area of one of the private residences situated on Duncrive Road. The matter was believed to have been reported to PKC previously during 2025 although to date no rectification work has taken place. PKC Cllr Watters to pass notification about this matter to the relevant PKC department. Action PKC

The Glenfarg Hotel. A discussion took place regarding the current state of the Hotel and who the current owners were believed to be. Cllr Ibbotson offered to write to the point of contact on behalf of the GCC again. Action Cllr Ibbotson

For full minutes see Community Council Notice Board



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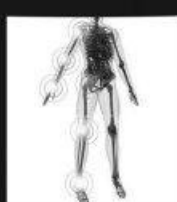
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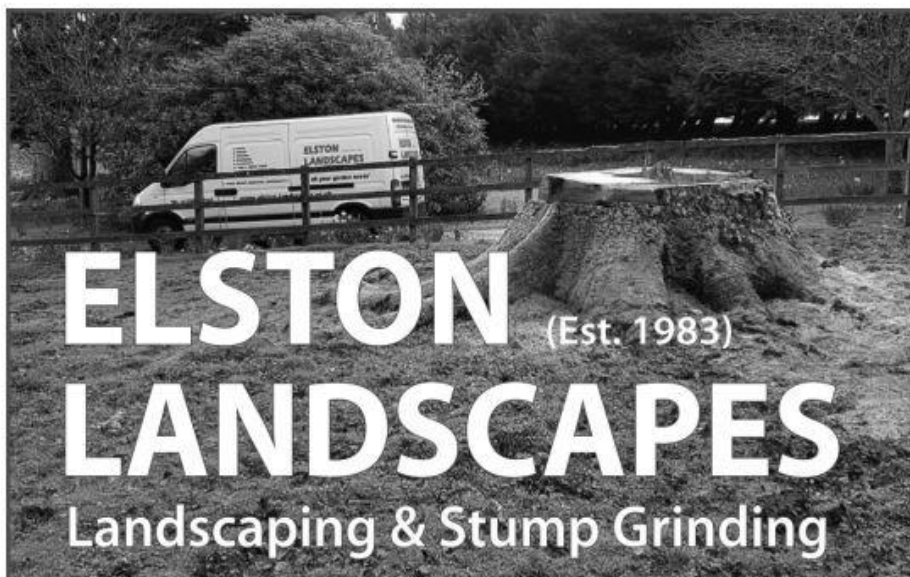
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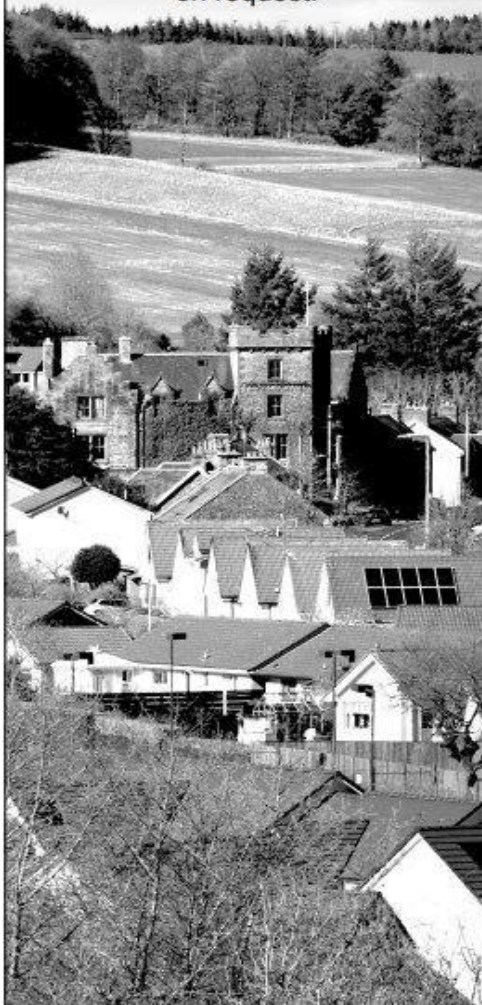
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Deadlines for contributions to the editor:

March Issue in by 15th Feb

June issue in by 15th May

September issue in by 15th August

December issue in by 15th Nov

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