

March 2018
Issue 3

The Lochgair Association Update

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Update from Hall Working Group members

At the February meeting of the Lochgair village hall working group the main item discussed was the current review by The Church of Scotland of presbytery plans for all parishes in Scotland, including Lochgair and Cumlodden. This plan will include a review of congregations and facilities.

Therefore until the results are published, the church is unable to take forward any proposals regarding the renovation or repair of the church or adjoining hall.

It was therefore decided to place discussions regarding the church premises on hold for the time being.



In the meantime, as securing a suitable hall and meeting place has been highlighted as a concern for the village, The Lochgair Association will continue to consider all other options.

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring issue of The Lochgair Association newsletter.

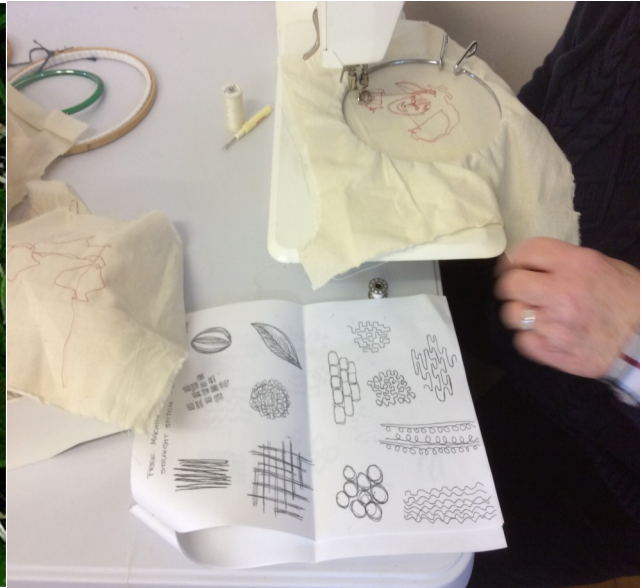


Lochgair Association Easter Weekend BBQ

You are invited to The Lochgair Easter Weekend BBQ to be held on Saturday 31st March at 6 Gallanach, Lochgair, commencing at 1 p.m. The very popular Children's Easter Egg hunt will kick off at approximately 2 p.m.

Donations will be accepted on the day towards the cost of provision of hamburgers / hotdogs, tea/coffee/fruit juice.

Please note that it's been agreed to give the Annual Beach Clean a miss this year. However we would suggest that everyone who would normally take part might go for a walk in the morning – for example to Ardcastle or Loch Glashan, and families with children walk around Loch Gair. Why not take a strong plastic bag with you and collect any rubbish you come across, which we will arrange to transport to the dump?



Lochgair Garden Group members started off 2018 with their annual lunch on 29th January. This was hosted as usual by our member, Deirdre Bruce. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we all only had a little prosecco! We would like to thank Deirdre for a lovely day.

At our February meeting we discussed what gardens and garden centre tour members would like to visit in the next few months. Margaret Gray gave a short informative talk on how to identify soil conditions that plants like to grow in by the type of leaves on the plant.

Members were reminded of our **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 26th May** – we will need plants to sell and all proceeds will go to the Lochgair Association.

As the weather has been too wet to work it has not been possible to work on new plant beds in the Scottish Water garden. As soon as the weather improves we intend to finish off the main bed and plant it.

Our next meeting is **Saturday 24th March 2018**. If anyone is interested in joining the garden group or would like to come on one our garden visits please contact **Carol Braidwood 01546 886251** or **Margaret Gray 01546 886341** New members are always welcome.

Lochgair Arts & Crafts Group was a hive of activity on its second get together in February. Fifteen enthusiastic members dived into working on their various embroidery, tapestry, bead craft work etc. while Maggie Murray demonstrated the art of free hand machine sewing and folk had a go at spinning wool.

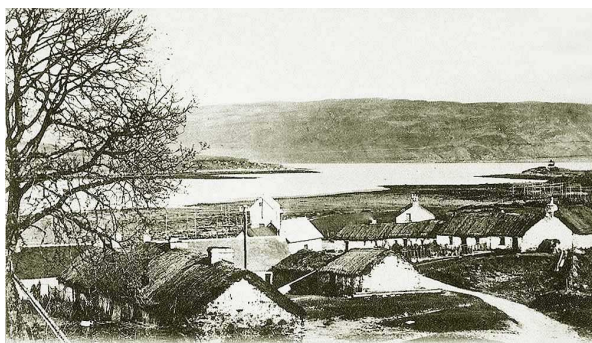
The group meet fortnightly from 1.30–4 p.m. in Lochgair hall. A fee of £1 an hour covers running costs. .



The first outing for some of our group will be to the Scottish Embroidery Show at the SECC on the **9th March**, The next session in the hall will be on **Friday 23rd March**, when we will have a go at making a 'calico garden'. Anyone interested in arts and crafts is welcome to come along.. It's a great opportunity to work on that little project that you started years ago, as well as learning new forms of arts and crafts that you always wanted to try.

THE LONG MEMORIES PROJECT – FEATURING AN EXHIBITION OF LOCHGAIR IN FORMER TIMES

SUNDAY 18TH MARCH FROM 2–4 P.M. IN LOCHGAIR HALL



Village of Gallanach and Lochgair

Valentines Series

We hope that there will be an excellent turn-out for **THE LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION** in the Hall On Sunday 18th March from 2–4 p.m.

Do you have photos you can bring along, or do you have stories to share with others? Can you help us map the following? - The location of the Waulkmill, the brick works, the peat lands, or the nearest drove roads? Who lived in which cottages in the settlements that make up our community in the early 1900s?

Refreshments including home baking will be provided. So come along and delve back into the history and stories associated with this area. .

The Wells of Lochgair by Fraser Bell

Lochgair was blessed with numerous wells. These wells provided fresh clear water for drinking and bathing long before water came out of taps. One of my clearest memories of my grandfather was of him shaving with cold water in the back garden at the standpipe. At the time I appeared on the scene there were ten dwelling houses in Gallanach itself, all of them to my recollection took water from the well in the field behind the house. There was a right of way to the well through the village. This well is now part of Jean McCartan's garden in front of her house. It is now unused although it still provides copious amounts of water.

It was a common sight in the village to see someone carrying an enamel pail to or from the well.

There was a small well on the other side of the Eas Dubh burn about 25 yards upstream from the new bridge, but I believe it has now closed over. On the south side of the bridge Redhouses had a well on the moor behind the house. Pointhouse and the Castle had a well below the hill midway between the two houses. Long after the Castle ceased to be occupied the path to the well could be seen on the moor.

There was a well, known to the villagers as the 'Healing Well' which was situated on the north side of St Bride's graveyard, outside the wall. Tradition had it that water from this well could heal all kinds of maladies.

It was also known to local people that there was a 'Wishing well' on the hillside above the School House, now known as Loran, and below Loch Loren where there is a derelict hamlet called Scotston. It suffered the same fate as the 'Healing well' when the Forestry Commission planted trees.

At East Kames (College) the well which served the four houses was situated about 200 yards west of the houses and under a rock face on a small hill. Although it had a narrow entrance the well went a good way below the rock. This well was unusual as for many years it had a trout in it which kept the water clean for drinking. (Most other wells used by people for drinking water had to be cleaned regularly). Although I often took pails of water from the well for my aunt who lived in the nearest house I was never lucky enough to see the trout. Unfortunately, the trout disappeared, thought at the time to have been 'fished' out by a visitor.

If you want to read more stories from Fraser connected to the 'Healing Well' and see photos of remains of wells in Lochgair and East Kames come to The Local History Exhibition on the 18th March.

Letters to the Editor

Peter Rice. Lochgair folk will be sorry to hear that Peter Rice has been unwell with flu that developed into serious pneumonia. He's now returned home from hospital and we wish him well. *Elspeth Wells.*

What do members think of this idea? As we all know a lot of migratory birds pass by our loch en route to colder or warmer climes. What do you think of the idea of a Bird Hide somewhere either on the shoreline or further inland where we and our family and friends could observe the bird wildlife without disturbing these migrant visitors to our shore? Also a hide might be useful for observing our native birds, particularly the more timid ones. If you have any thoughts on this please send them to The Editor for inclusion in the next issue of Lochgair Update. *Local bird watcher*

Membership Subscriptions for 2018

You will remember that at the Association's AGM last May a vote was passed for the re-instatement of a membership fee of £5 per head in order to fund the activities of the Association. It was agreed to waive the fee for 2017.

Membership subscriptions for 2018/19 will be collected at the Association's AGM this year on the 2nd of June. We'll send out a reminder nearer the time.

Issue 4 of The Lochgair Association Update will come out in the beginning of June

If you have any items for Issue 4 please email them to: The Editor at rock.solid.res@gmail.com or drop a note to Marion Lacey, Westcroft, Lochgair.

This is YOUR Newsletter. We welcome your photos, news and articles!