

# The Lochgair Association Update

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## Editorial

Welcome to the **HOTTEST JUNE** and the Summer Issue of The Lochgair Association Update.

This newsletter is full of photos and articles you have submitted. A big thanks to everyone who contributes and to you the readers.

Please keep these articles coming in.

## PROPOSED PLANS FOR 2018/19

Members attending the AGM of the Association on the 18th June came up with a number of ideas on events and areas of work that they and others might get involved in over the coming year.

- Folk support the idea of a village newsletter and are happy to contribute photos and articles.
- By public demand there will be a repeat in the Autumn of the **SOCIAL HISTORY EXHIBITION**, but this time over a week to allow more time to see all the exhibits and to share stories .
- To celebrate the artistic talent in the area we will be producing packs of **CHRISTMAS AND OCCASION CARDS FOR SALE** (see page 2 for details).
- Some members are beginning to look at **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS** to the area such as a Bird Hide, improvements to the path that goes from Knock Steading around the back of Loran House, and development of cycling paths.
- Following the Auction of Promises last year further **TRAINING & FUN EVENTS** are planned for this summer both on and off the water.
- If other folk are interested we might organise a '**BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**' in aid of Macmillan on the 29th of September; and also holding a **MUSICAL 'BOTHY NIGHT'** in the Hotel some time in late November. We would welcome your input on further ideas for events and activities over the coming year..



The Community Garden takes shape. These were the first blooms of the shrubs donated by Scottish Water. Big thanks to the volunteers from the Gardening Group for creating and maintaining this garden



The Gardening Group's trip to Geilston Gardens, on the banks of the River Clyde near Helensburgh was very popular with lots of interesting flowers and shrubs to excite their interest. This includes a 200 year old walled garden, and for children there is a 'Hobbit hole' play area and floral maze. It belongs to the National Trust For Scotland but the latter is threatening to withdraw financial support as part of a cost saving exercise. Gardening Club members ask us to support Geilston by visiting the gardens.



Barbara and Huw Service kindly hosted the June meeting of the Gardening Group. Members wandered around their beautiful garden at Knock Newhouse, For one member motorised assistance was ideal for getting round their extensive grounds.

### YES TO SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (SCIO)

Members at the AGM in June agreed to Lochgair Association registering as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), This would entitle the Association as a registered Charity to apply for Trust Funds from Charitable Organisations. This combined with the legal status equivalent to that of a limited company would enable the Association to pursue ideas involving buildings or staff. The Committee will redraft the constitution for agreement at an Extraordinary Meeting of members prior to submission to The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

The poem on page 3, simply entitled Lochgair, was penned in Sept. 1946 after a visit by Jenny Hart accompanied by 40 ladies from the Civic Group of the Paisley Townswomen's Guild. Jenny stayed in Newhouse with "loyal friends of youthful days". It was sent to us by Fiona Rice from the collection of papers belonging to Lady Campbell, her grandmother.

## THE LONG MEMORIES PROJECT — LOCHGAIR WATERFALLS BY FRASER BELL

**LOCHGAIR**

There's a little white croft nestling high on a hill,  
Overlooking a loch broad and grand;  
There's a landscape that changes with nature's swift will,  
As she flutters a fairylike wand.

Now the sunbeams are dancing on bracken turned brown,  
The rain like the flail of a lash;  
And the angry loch darkens with moody-like frown,  
As the clouds scurry past like a flash.

Unless you have walked around the hills at Lochgair it will surprise you to know that beautiful waterfalls exist at the burn that runs from Loch Loren down past the Old School-house (Loren House). There were 3 waterfalls, but nowadays there are only 2 with very little water falling from them as all the water was diverted to Loch Glashan for the power station. Prior to that the falls were spectacular with usually large volumes of water falling. The drop for both waterfalls is about 50 feet and when water fell in large amounts with the sparkling light from the trees and the enclosed area it was and still is a magical place.

Below each waterfall was a deep pool where trout rested. I regularly fished these pools, but only occasionally took home a trout as I wanted to preserve the small stock. Heavy spray from the falls soaked me and midges were a nightmare. Even an old nylon stocking over my head didn't stop them. As well as trout the pools contained eels which I regularly caught. I hated to catch them as they curled up the line and were slimy to touch. They were about 50cms long and dark green in colour.

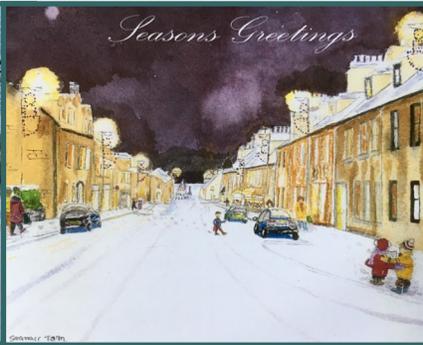
Every August/September the burn at the falls was black with tiny eels (elvers) about 2 inches long. I always thought that they had been born in Loch Loren and were making their way to the sea, but now believe they were born in the Sargasso Sea and were making their way to Loch Loren to feed and grow. As far as I know the elvers no longer go up the burn as there is very little water for them to make their way to Loch Loren.

A rainbow so lovely comes up from the glen,  
And stretches in colourful span;  
I tapers away to a far-frowning Ben,  
And speaks of God's promise to man.

A quiet pensive evening draws onward to night,  
And moonlight floods brightly all round;  
The waters' calm surface reflects her pale light,  
And peace like a balm here is found.

The hearts of the croft and loyal and true,  
Bound together by youth's happy days;  
And round a bright fire old times we renew,  
As we wander down memory's ways.

No it's not the run up to Christmas! But we've had a terrific response to our requests for art work for packs of Christmas and other occasion cards for sale in aid of Association funds. These cards will be on display shortly featuring scenes/studies by TOM CLARKE (examples here), DEIRDRE BRUCE and VIV MEREDITH, and by GABRIELLE TAYLOR who previously lived in Lochgair.

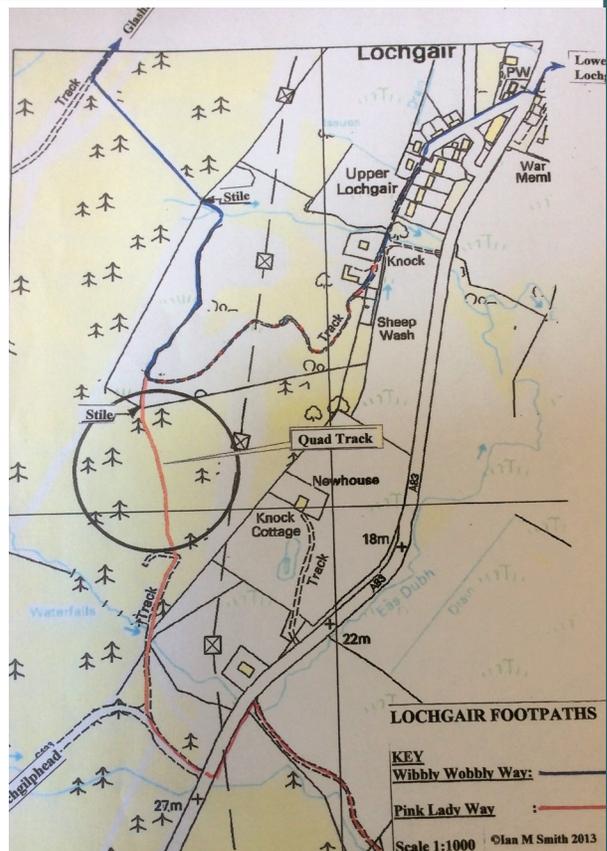


### Reopening access by path

#### from Loch Glashan to Loch Fyne

ROB WRATE, and ALEX FENYES (a new member of our Committee, who lives in Loran House), have responded to the challenge set by IAN SMITH at the AGM—to improve the overgrown path, called Pink Lady Way, that runs from Knock Steading along the back of Loran House to the Forestry parking area adjacent to the A83. They also plan to check out the connection from this path to the Forestry cycle paths around Loch Glashan. Potentially this would provide an alternative route for locals and visitors from Loch Glashan to the shores of Loch Fyne at Kames. We look forward to hearing how they are getting on in the next issue of this newsletter.

If you are interested in joining this working party contact any of the above or drop The Editor an email ([rock.solid.res@gmail.com](mailto:rock.solid.res@gmail.com)).



### Issue 5 of The Lochgair Association Update will come out in September

STOP PRESS. ASKNISH HOUSE. We will have news in the next issue of ...

- Preserving the original roof timbers
- Uncovering the Lime Walk
- Exposing the old mill site with some of the original watercourses
- Findings from the geo-physics work on the field in front - this may identify the site of the original house.