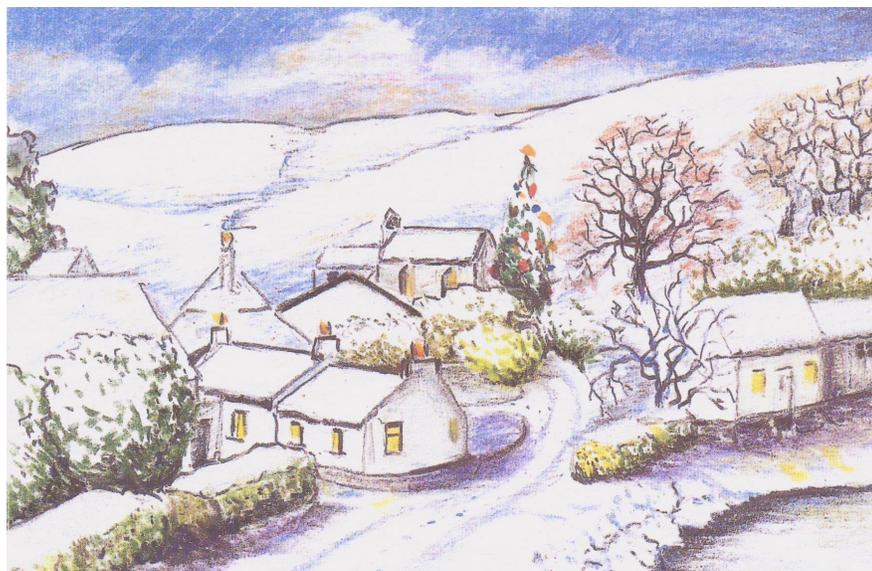


December 2017
Issue 2

The Lochgair Association Update

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"Christmas in Lochgair"

This beautiful pastel drawing was created by the artist Gabriel Taylor some twenty years ago when she lived in the village. She now lives in the Borders but at the time owned the Stable Gallery in Inveraray. She sketched this view of Lochgair from an upper window in Lochside.

Do you have any paintings of Lochgair that we can publish in a future issue?

Editorial

Welcome to the Christmas issue of The Lochgair Association newsletter.

The response to the first newsletter in September was very positive—"Great idea, varied content, attractive format and informative...Love the look of the new document. Very smart and easy to read."

Issue No. 3 will come out in March 2018.

Lochgair Association Committee waives Membership Subscription for 2017

Those who attended the Association's AGM last May will remember that 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. You may be wondering when this is to be paid? The committee has decided that membership subscriptions for 2018/19 will be collected at the Association's next AGM which is likely to be on the 2nd of June 2018. We will send out confirmation and a reminder of the AGM nearer the time.

The committee wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

Highlights

LOCHGAIR GARDEN GROUP VISIT TO BUTE by Carol Braidwood & Margaret Gray



The Lochgair garden group had a very enjoyable short break in Bute at the beginning of September. The sun shone (yes, really!) and we visited three very different gardens.

Ardencraig municipal garden in Rothesay was still a blaze of colour and the bedding scheme looked immaculate. Next day we started off at Ascog Fernery and explored the garden round it, which is being slowly renovated by its new owners—a treat for those interested in unusual plants. Last but not least was Mount Stuart House and Garden. The house was amazing and there was so much to see

in the vast estate gardens, especially the huge walled kitchen garden with a tropical house at its centre. After all that activity, a long soak in the hot outdoor pool at Portavadie (still in the sun) finished off a great two days.

Thanks to Jan for organising our accommodation at Bayview Hotel in Rothesay – lovely sea view rooms and superb breakfasts and two enjoyable dinners at Harry Haw’s. Thanks to our drivers, Jan, Douglas and Bill who made the trip.

Where shall we go next year folks?

THE SCOTTISH WATER COMMUNITY GARDEN

(We will have to stop calling it the sewage garden!) The garden group supplied Scottish Water with a large wish list of plants to help mask the tanks, which have all arrived and are very good quality. Carol is very kindly storing them while we attack the terrible soil conditions on site. More help with this would be great and also any old compost and rotten leaves would be appreciated. (Please contact Carol or Margaret)



AUCTION OF PROMISES—A ROARING SUCCESS



The auctioneer, Anne McLean, ably assisted by Rosemary Dargie, ensured that everyone enjoyed a lively social evening with a buffet and wine. Once all the promises are delivered, we expect to have raised over £1,200 in support of the work of the Association. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make it such a fun and successful evening.

On page 3 you can find out about the new Arts and Crafts Group which is an offshoot of the Christmas Decorations workshops promise.

In Issue 3 we will feature more promises and an update from some of the lucky recipients.

UPDATE BY VILLAGE HALL WORKING GROUP

At a public meeting earlier this year it was agreed to look at replacing the existing hall, which is in a poor state of repair and options for converting the church building into a multi-purpose space.

The working group, consisting of 3 persons selected by The Lochgair Association and 3 persons selected by the Kirk Session, have had a series of meetings over the year, investigating options to taking this project forward.

They intend to report back to the community of Lochgair on these options in mid-February.



Watch your emails and the notice boards for notification of the date of the public meeting.

NEWS - NEW LOCHGAIR ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP TO MEET IN EARLY JANUARY



The Christmas Decorations Workshops, an auction promise kindly donated by facilitated by resident textile artist, Maggie Murray were so successful that a Micro-grant application was submitted to Loch Fyne Community Council for craft materials to start a regular crafts group.

We are delighted to confirm that the application was successful and members of the soon to be established Lochgair Arts and Crafts Group plan to meet monthly in the village hall.

The inaugural meeting will be a Saturday in early January and everyone is welcome, if you or any friends from beyond Lochgair would like to join, please call **Marion on 886232** or email the editor (rock.solid.res@gmail.com)

Letters to the Editor

Thank you all

Maggie and I wish to say a profound "thank you" to all the kind local residents who have helped us over the past year. Our house was not habitable for many months following an accident in October 2016 which resulted in a huge insurance claim. We were provided with accommodation, mugs of soup, cups of tea and coffee, the loan of a microwave and many small acts of kindness and offers of help. Thank you all so much.

With our best wishes, **Douglas and Maggie Murray**

Sad News

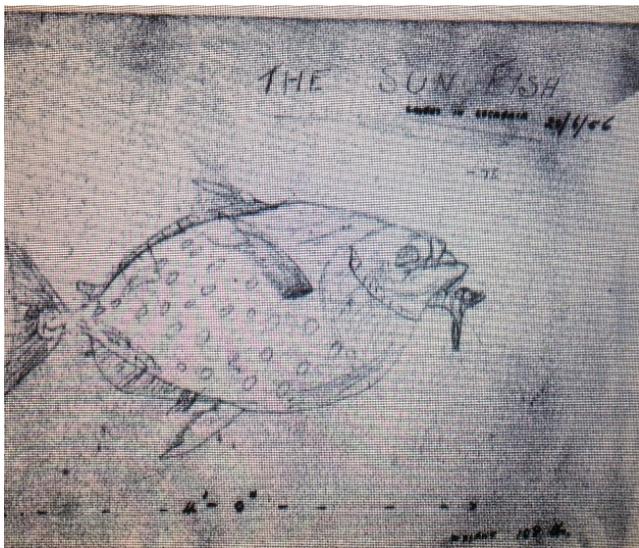
Thanks for telling us of the death on 9th December of Donald Shuttleworth, a great character who loved the countryside and chatted to everyone from his car, while Rosemary did the shopping. He kept bees and kindly gave us a jar in the summer months. A member of the Tarbet Shooting Club he enjoyed the competition of clay pigeon shooting. We had many happy times with Donald and Rosemary.

Regards, **Tom Glen**

The Long Memories Social History Project — Memories of Lochgair

The Social History Project has prompted considerable interest in unearthing the social history of the village. This article submitted by Fraser Bell is the first of what we hope will be a whole series of stories by current and former residents, plus photos of Lochgair and adjoining hamlets in former times. We want to capture as much information as we can to create an archive about Lochgair. We need your help to collect stories, photos, newspaper articles, or other items of interest with connections to our village. **Would you like to be involved with this interesting and worthwhile project? If so, please email The Editor at rock.solid.res@gmail.com**

A childhood memory of young Fraser Bell — SUNFISH SHOT IN LOCHGAIR



On the 20th of June 1956 there was great consternation in the village when a strange looking fish was spotted swimming around the yachts anchored in the bay. Two local men, well known in the village, got into a boat and began to search for the fish. After some time they spotted the fish swimming around about 200 yards from the shore, opposite Burnside (now known as the Old Manse). Unusually they had a rifle with them in the boat and after getting close to the fish shot it and pulled it on to the shore. It was a strange looking fish and obviously not native to our waters. It was yellowish/grey in colour and flat shaped like a flounder. However unlike a flounder it seemed to swim flat out on the surface.

It had a very small pug like mouth, a small narrow tail and two very large fins, one on its back and the other on its stomach. Later that day the fish was measured and found to be 4 feet long from nose to tail, 2 feet wide, 1 foot broad and weighed 108 lbs. As cameras were not in common use at this time a likeness on the fish was drawn on a sketch pad by Fraser . At the time it was suggested that it could be a Sunfish which had strayed into Loch Fyne and landed up on a sandy beach in Lochgair.

A recent television programme confirmed that the Lochgair fish was indeed a Sunfish. Unfortunately it lay on the beach for some time until the tide took it away.

The Lochgair Association Committee would like to hear your ideas on current and future projects, and how we might use the money we raise. This is your newsletter. We welcome your views.

Issue 3 of The Lochgair Association Update will be a Spring Issue

If you have any items for Issue 3 please email them to: The Editor at rock.solid.res@gmail.com or drop a note to Marion Lacey, Westcroft, Lochgair.