

THE FURNACE PRESS

Lochfyneside community newsletter



The Furnace Press is a collection of news, views and announcements submitted by members of the community and is published by Furnace Amenity Association, which also owns and runs Furnace Village Hall as well as staging community events throughout the year.



There is no set charge for The Furnace Press but your donation helps meet the cost of production.

Jan/Feb 2018

ALMOST A FIRST FOOTER



I got a quick poor quality picture of an alien visitor on Tuesday January 1st.

The weather that morning was more than heavy dew, with very low cloud, well you'll never guess what occurred, a helicopter decided to land in the field in front of Pennymore.

The pilot got out and wandered up to our bridge as I went out to be nosey. He had no lump of coal, nor any amber coloured bottle in his hand.

"Hi I said I suppose you're not from Mars, but are you lost or do you have a problem at all".

He replied in a very posh voice "no problems thankfully and no I'm not from Mars with a laugh and a grin, when I left Prestwick around 11am it was wall to wall sunshine and I'm on my way back to Lochgoilhead. Because of very bad low cloud and very heavy rain I decided to rest down in your field until it has cleared away, I hope you don't mind".

"Well says I, it's sort of a little late to ask me that, as your helicopter is now sitting in the field, but of course it's no problem"

"I enquired if his passengers were all OK and comfortable"

"Yes he replied I have my wife, our 20 month old daughter, who is asleep and the nanny with me"

I just had to mention that "most people take kids for a car ride to get them to sleep, but then most people don't own a helicopter".

"Would they like to come into the house I asked, it would be more comfortable until the weather improves"

"Why that's very kind of you, I'll check back with the wife and we'll come in for a while"

Well he walked back to the copter, got back in it and that's where they stayed for around 20 minutes and then flew off, as the sun came out again over the misty loch.

Hey ho c'est la vie I thought, secretly hoping that he would have come in and then I could have wangled a special flight around Argyll one day in the future, when and if the sunshine should return to our Mid Argyll.

Len Ford, January 2018

Furnace Community Council & Amenity Association meeting
Thursday 22nd February 7.30 pm in Furnace Hall.
All are welcome to attend and take part in the meeting.

QUIZ
Friday 2nd Feb - 7.30 pm
Furnace Hall

HOGMANAY IN THE FURNACE BAR

Thanks to Emma Irons for these photos from earlier in the evening. It was great to welcome locals and visitors, who all had a great night.



SCHOOL NEWS

Can't believe it's almost the end of January! We've been very busy and have lots of things coming up we would like you to join us in.

First of all, we welcomed another **3 new pupils**. Twins Daniel and Isaac and their sister Florence have joined us from Lancashire. They are settling in well and there is a real buzz in the classroom now with 10 students.

This month we have had a visit to the library in Lochgilphead, started our topic on the Vikings, learnt about hearing aids and done some signing (which we intend to keep going), had a special Burns' Day lunch and got back into the swing of all our usual things.

We are hoping to start a **football club** after school on a Wednesday (3.30-5pm) until the summer. We have asked for volunteer helpers from parents, but if you are free and would like to help, please get in touch with the school office (01499 500627).

We will also be starting the **Furnace Family Story Club**. This will run on Mondays from 4-5.30pm in the school. Our aim is for all the children in the village, whether pupils with us or not, to be able to come along and read with and to an adult. As we have several sets of siblings in the school we need people to come along and be co-readers with the children. Mrs Renton, our ASN Assistant has offered to run Bookbug sessions for younger children at the same time.

The idea would be to spend some time sharing a book with a child by reading to or with them and having them read to you. A short training session for adults will be available when we start. In addition, we will be providing refreshments, during which time we will hear part of another story each week. This story has still to be chosen so feel free to contribute ideas. Look out for posters shortly, but if you would like to be a co-reader please leave your contact details with Mrs Fee in the office at the number above.

Last upcoming plan which we would like our community to get involved in is still in the early stages of planning, but here's the idea so far:-

On our gardening day last year, we started collecting stones from the beach to be the edging to our path in the wildlife garden. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and it didn't get made. I recently saw a photo of a beautiful pathway made by a school using brightly painted stones. I thought this would look lovely in our garden and then I remembered we had collected big stones for edgings. So, the idea is this, on the edging stones we will get all the children and staff to paint their names and the year and we thought it would be nice if everyone in the village would do the same, so we will have a record of who was living in Furnace in 2018. Look out for more news soon.

UPDATE ON FURNACE QUARRY

If you've been wondering about the construction work going on at the quarry, here is a report from the owners, Breedon, following a recent meeting held with community council representatives.

As discussed at our liaison meeting in October, we are replacing the existing asphalt plant with a more modern version to allow us to keep serving our customers in Argyll and Bute. The new plant will be located within the quarry void further away from nearby housing and sheltered by an existing rock face. The chosen location will reduce the noise and visual impact for our neighbours. Commissioning of the new plant is anticipated to be carried out in February. The old plant will be demolished and removed from site later this year once the replacement plant is up and running.

Please contact me if you require any clarification or further information.

Gavin Mennie

Director of Estates, Planning and Geology

NEWS FLASH - A83 CLOSED OVERNIGHT AT STRONE POINT FROM MONDAY 5th FEB FOR 4 NIGHTS 9.00 pm - 5.00 am FOR ROADWORKS

Church News

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 4th February Morning service in Lochgair Church at 10 am.

Sunday 11th February Morning service in Cumloddan Church at 10 am.

Gaelic Service in Lochgair Church at 3 pm.

Sunday 18th February Morning Service in Cumloddan Church at 10 am. Tea to follow.

Sunday 25th February Morning Service in Cumloddan Church at 10 am.

GUILD MEETINGS

Cumloddan and Lochfyne Guild meets on Wednesday 7th February, when the speaker will be Jason Copestick, Dip. Hortic. of Fyne Horticulture. All welcome.

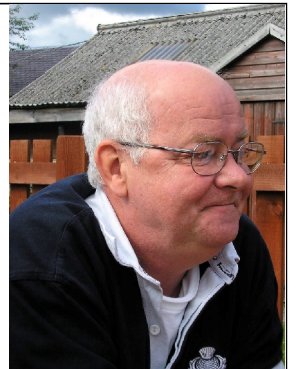
The Guild members shared an enjoyable meal at the Lochfyne Hotel in Inveraray in January. They were joined by Rev. Dr. Roderick and Mrs. Campbell.

CHOIR

The Choir meets on Tuesday evenings in Cumloddan Church. New members always welcome.

It is with great sadness that we learned our village has lost two well-loved and respected members within the last few weeks.

We were all very saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Iain Campbell on January 8th. Iain has been a much loved character in the village for many years. Always ready with a joke or witty riposte, he could be relied upon to liven up the monthly quizzes and bingo sessions. Much travelled during his working life, it would be a struggle to name a place in the world that would not have him call out "been there!". An abiding memory will always be of him dressed in his kilt, dancing a jig to the juke box in the Furnace Inn. He will be greatly missed but always remembered fondly - with a smile.



Paul Hadfield, pictured at home at Powdermills in December 2010, preparing for a power cut, died on Friday 26th January 2018 after a short stay in the Mid Argyll Community Hospital.

He came to Furnace in August 1999 and loved the tranquillity of Powdermills and its connectedness to its location.

He was a member of the Furnace bowls club and of Cumloddan Church Choir until the Parkinson's disease which had afflicted him from well before its diagnosis around 2009, made both impossible.

He mourned the loss of the fellowship of teams of every kind as well as of the activities which he thoroughly enjoyed and which kept body and soul together.

Paul's funeral service is at Cumloddan Church at 12 noon on Monday 5th February 2018; with his interment afterwards at Kilevin Cemetery down the road in Crarae; and with the wake in Furnace Village Hall, to which everyone is invited to come and raise a glass to Paul.