

Soirbheas

Investing in the communities of Glen Urquhart & Strathglass

Meet the Directors

Over the coming months we will running features on who our Director are, and the duties they carry out as volunteers for Soirbheas. See our website <https://www.soirbheas.org/staff-directors/>



We start by introducing you to Jimmy Murray, who joined the Board in 2019 and took up the reins as our Chairperson in June this year. Jimmy and his family live in Balnain and he is keen to support the communities of Strathglass and Glen Urquhart in maximising the potential benefits from projects. To achieve this a main task he is concentrating on is finalising our Business Plan.

Jimmy's qualifications - MSc in Renewable Energy Systems Technology (Loughborough University) - and experience, provides us with a specialist skills set. He has worked as a renewable energy consultant specialising in supporting community organisations around Scotland to develop their own renewable energy projects. Currently working for a Scottish marine energy company, he leads on business development and coordinating European R&D grant programmes.

Dial-In Funding Surgeries

Carol and Nicky are available during normal office hours (9am - 5pm), but while we are unable to meet you before Board meetings to discuss your ideas we are offering a new service to enhance contact. Dial-In Surgeries are available at **6.30pm** on:

6th October
10th November
1st December

Contact Carol for dial-in details.

Loch Ness Hub and Share Offer

Based in the former TIC building in Drumnadrochit, the Loch Ness Hub will provide a Community Transport, Tourist Information & Baggage Transfer Service.



Planned to open in spring 2021, the aim of The Hub is to provide a range of services and promote local businesses and attractions.

The **Community Share Offer** opens with a drop in session at the former **TIC, Drumnadrochit**, on **Saturday 19th September**, from **9am to 6pm** and closes on the **17th October**.

The funds generated from the sale of the shares will facilitate the purchase of an existing baggage transfer service, and the more funds raised will reduce the need to borrow. As a community benefit company the profits generated from operations will be reinvested back into community services and projects. To learn more visit The Hub website <https://lochnesshub.com/>

Grants Awards

Since 2014 we have awarded over **£350k** across our grant programmes, benefiting 100's of people living in Strathglass and Glen Urquhart!

To support local organisations during Covid-19, we have **removed application deadlines for Tier 2 grants**, and we have allocated funds through a new **Community Resilience Fund**. This fund is to help address urgent community needs that have arisen as a direct result of Covid-19. **Five** organisations have been awarded funding to the total value of **£4,800** enabling them to pay for repairs and essential running costs which would have been covered by the income generated from events and activities. Since March we have allocated **two Tier 1** awards, totalling **£1,960**, unfortunately both are on hold due to the current restrictions on activities. **One Tier 2** was awarded to GCP for a business review.

Two Tier 3 grants were approved totalling **£58,200**. You can follow progress on Phase 1 of the Affric Kintail Way project and find out how you can help raise funds for Phase 2 at <http://glenaffric.info/>



And follow development of the former Nurses House in Cannich <http://www.strathglass-community.org.uk/nurses-house.html>

You can find out more about all our grant programmes on our website <https://www.soirbheas.org/soirbheas-grant-programme/> and arrange a meeting with Carol or Nicky via tel/video to discuss your needs.

Working towards a more vibrant, growing & greener community.

Project Updates

Cnocan Burraidh Graveyard The renovation work has continued and plans to produce a film to tell the story of the Grant family are underway. See more at <https://www.soirbheas.org/cnocan-burraidh-heritage-project/>



Elderly and Young Partnership The members have reviewed progress, and work on revising the five-year plan will continue when restrictions allow.

Befriending Service Uptake for the service increased during lockdown although meetings are taking place by phone rather than face to face. Gemma has started as the new co-ordinator contact **T:** 01456459077 or **email:** befriender@glenurquhartcareproject.org

Food Larders provided a discrete service to households in need. They were located in bus stops in four villages and supported by Soirbheas, New Start, a £100 nomination from Ruaraidh Drennan, as well as generous donations from local people. Our meal in a bag contains basic ingredients and a recipe card and when restrictions allow will lead on to cookery lessons. Contact Nicky to arrange a delivery of essential items while the larders are suspended.

Photo Competition 2020 116 amazing photos were entered celebrating our natural environment, people and projects. We donated £600 to local charities nominated by the winners. Results are on our webpage <https://www.soirbheas.org/soirbheas-photography-competition/>

Glen Urquhart Horticultural Society Annual Show As the annual show had been cancelled we supported the society to host a digital show. Super entries were received across a range of categories. Further details on the project webpage <https://www.soirbheas.org/glen-urquhart-horticultural-society/>

Green Health Home Packs

Soirbheas secured funding to produce and distribute 270 packs containing growing kits, wildlife ID and craft items to Nursery, P1 – 3 and isolated and older residents.



Are you a member?

Membership is free and open to anyone 12+ who is a local resident. Input from the members is important to ensure we remain in touch with what our communities need. Current members please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details.

Dates for Your Diary

Loch Ness Hub Share Offer Launch

Sat 19 September, 9am - 6pm, Drumnadrochit

Soirbheas AGM and Board Meeting

Thurs 29 October, 7.30pm

via tel/digital meeting - contact us for dial in details

Green Health Day - 13th October from 10.30am

<https://www.soirbheas.org/news-whats-on/>

Board Meeting

Thurs 27 February 2021, 7.30pm venue tbc



OpenNESS

We are looking at ways to deliver awareness sessions through webinars and digital technology.

If there are any topics you would like covered please contact

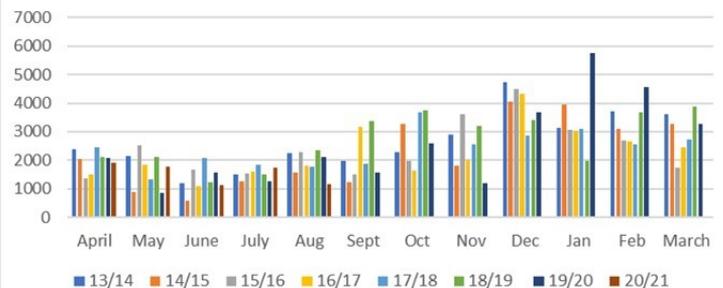
Nicky. Check out our information & training toolkit <https://www.soirbheas.org/projects/openness-inclusive-communities/>

Would you like to give something back to your community?

We have welcomed three new Directors to the team and are still looking to appoint Directors from the **Strathglass** area. For an informal chat please contact Carol. <https://www.soirbheas.org/soirbheas-vacancies/>

Latest Wind Farm Data

Corrimony Wind Farm
Results in billable MWh



How to get in touch

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Or find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter