



August 2026

Rogart News



NEWS • COMMUNITY • CONNECTION

Keeping our parish informed and connected

Community Council Jottings...

Lairg II wind farm deliveries will end early September.

There is an exhibition on Pollie wind farm (Amat) in the Hall on 7 September.

Gordonbush legacy funds have been approved by the CC for St Callan's and the Play Park, with Hall refurbishment likely.

The Tuesday Hub is now funded until March 2027.

Next Meeting: Mon 7 September 19:30. For more info see www.rogartcommunitycouncil.com.

RDT Update

The activities that were kindly funded by the National Lottery are now drawing to a close and have been well received! Over the last few months we have trialled willow and wool weaving, line dancing, guided walks, balance bike sessions and will be hosting an archery session for local young people of high school and college ages (which there are still spaces on at the time of writing this for the newsletter 24.07.26). Heartfelt thanks to all of our amazing tutors who have shared their skills with us over the course of the activities pilot, including Hannah from Willow and Gorse Basketry, Malcolm from The Cat's Back Basketry, Anna the Badninish Weaver, Jam Trumble of TCD Dance, Amanda Wagstaffe of Pedal Pursuits, and Kurt of Connell Outdoor Pursuits. Huge thanks also to the trustees for arranging and opening for all the sessions. If you have attended any of these sessions and would like to give us feedback, please visit this link to fill in our survey: <https://forms.gle/4Je4TGUWgNbd27TT9>. Your feedback will help us plan local activities going forward.



Pics from the recent activities

If you would like to become a member of RDT, please email caroline.lewis@rogartdevelopmenttrust.com to ask for a membership form, download one from our website www.rogartdevelopmenttrust.com, or ask in the Rogart Spar shop for a paper copy of the form to fill in.

The Rogart Heritage Society has completed their heritage board project at the Mart, and the boards are looking absolutely beautiful. We are very grateful to Christina, Charlotte, and Kate for all their hard work in seeing this vision come to life: the boards are a valuable addition to the Mart grounds and provide a beautiful display on Rogart's rich heritage. There was a lovely write-up on the project in the Northern Times, which can be found here: <https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/rogart-history-brought-to-life-at-village-mart-439846/>. Thank you all!

The orchard continues to take shape with the much-appreciated help of our outstanding volunteers. Thank you very much to those taking time to plant and stake trees, water, weed, donate, and plant bedding plants, trim, build compost bays, help making signage, etc.

Please note that the orchard is open to all to visit whenever you wish – please just close gates behind you. If you would like to join in with some orchard workgroup gardening sessions, let Kat Lee know on [07784034659](tel:07784034659).

The crofter's pop-up pilot has begun. This is very different from the larger markets at the Mart as it is focused solely on supporting local food and consumables, e.g. fruit, veg, honey, meat, wool, fleeces, firewood, veg plants, seedlings, etc. At the moment, it is in its infancy, but we hope that the concept will grow, supporting local crofts and small businesses, whilst also supporting Rogart to eat and use lots more local food and resources. We will be reviewing how the pop-up works at the end of the season and will of course, pop out a survey for feedback on how to grow this idea more. If anyone would like more information, please contact Kat on [07784034659](tel:07784034659).

Play Park News

The Rogart Play Park Committee would like to update everyone on the progress of the new Rogart Play Park.

We've been busy working behind the scenes, and we're delighted to share some great news! The Highland Council has been in touch, and we are hopeful that installation will be mid-September.

There will be plenty of activity during the installation period, so we would like to thank everyone for your patience while the new play park is being completed.

We've included a visual of the proposed play park below to give you an idea of what's to come. Please note that the springers shown in the image are subject to change.



Thank you for your continued support—we can't wait to see the new play park enjoyed by the whole community! Keep your eyes peeled for the Grand Opening!

Commonwealth Games update from Hope Gordon

This year has been incredibly busy with two World Cups, the European Championship, and the Commonwealth Games. Brandenburg was the venue for the first World Cup, where Hope secured her first-ever gold in kayaking and a silver in canoeing. These results were replicated in Portugal a few weeks later. Then came the Montreal World Cup, where she achieved a double gold for the first time ever! Sadly, she also contracted food poisoning just 10 days before her first Commonwealth Games.

Representing Scotland at the Commonwealth Games was a



dream come true and a full circle moment. It all started when she watched her first Para sport at Yorkhill Children's Hospital and ended with her competing for Scotland at the Armadillo in Yorkhill's shadow, a sport she's been doing for less than a year. She lifted three clean lifts in the Women's Heavyweight Para Powerlifting, setting a personal best and finishing 9th overall. The overwhelming support she received was truly incredible!

Scotland's first female Para Powerlifter was already known, but she also became the first athlete to compete in the Winter Paralympics, the Summer Paralympics, and the Commonwealth Games in three different sports. Another full circle moment was the wonderful closing ceremony, which took place 10 years after her life-changing

operation. To everyone who helped make this possible, there will never be enough ways to thank you.

Next, she heads to Poznan, Poland, to defend her World Championship title in canoeing and see what happens in the kayak in just a couple of weeks!

Rogart Heritage Society - the bittersweet legacies of Mr J C Mackay

In the last Rogart News, we wrote about the Rogart Educational Association, which had provided bursaries and book prizes for dozens of young people beginning in 1876, championed and funded by Donald and John Mackay of Rogart and Hereford. After the deaths of the two gentlemen, John's eldest son, John Charles Mackay (1883-1934), continued to support the Educational Association. Around £30,000 was donated by the Mackay family, which has the buying power of £1.8 million today.

Towards the end of his life, J. C. Mackay was angered that the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Commission sought to consolidate a wide range of different grants and stipends across the whole country, including the Mackay Bursaries. He considered that this would undermine the original intent of the family's sponsorship in Rogart, and questions were even asked in the House of Lords on his behalf; but to no avail.

£141,332 WILL OF MR JC MACKAY

CHARITY TO BENEFIT UNDER CHELTENHAM WILL

When J. C. Mackay died a year later, he left £141,332 in his will—worth around £9 million now. Having no children, the main beneficiaries were his wife, several nephews and nieces. His domestic servants and chauffeur received £5 for every year of their service.

He also left money to worthy causes—£1,000 to the Hereford Lads Club and £250 to the Victoria Eye Hospital, Hereford. But his generosity stopped there; the Rogart Educational Association received nothing.

Strath Fleet Buttons and Bows (SFBB)

Strath Fleet Buttons & Bows is a beginner to intermediate music group formed in 2007. However, in 2005 we were a much smaller group called The Muie Sharps & Flats. We practised at Muie in Brian Mears Gaelic School, but when Brian's house was refurbished, we moved to Rogart Hall. Since we were no longer

in Muie, it was decided we needed a new name, and SFBB was born.

Our group grew in numbers, and we welcome all ages that can play an instrument. We don't teach in the group; there is not enough time at our Monday night practices to do so, but we do encourage everybody to learn new tunes by playing them slowly, especially the more "tricky" parts. We advise everyone to practice at home so they can improve.

Our group has a lot of fun. We go to different venues to entertain and encourage the audience to join in with us by singing along to our music. We take the song sheets with us, hand them out, and it is lovely to hear everyone sing along with us. Makes it all worthwhile

We have performed in Eden Court twice and at many other local venues over the years.



SFBB on tour

We plan to keep going for many years and encourage more to come and play the variety of music we enjoy so much. For further details, please contact Monica on [07769715277](tel:07769715277) or [01408 641388](tel:01408641388).

Ping... Pong... People Wanted!

Looking for a fun way to stay active, meet new people, and have a laugh? Then why not give Rogart Table Tennis a try?

We're taking a short summer break but will be back on Tuesday 15 September at 6.00 pm, and we'd love to welcome some new players.

Don't worry if you've never played before or if it's been years since you last picked up a bat—everyone is welcome! Our youngest member is 14 and our oldest is 78, so age is definitely no



barrier.

Table tennis is a brilliant way to keep fit, sharpen your reactions, and enjoy a friendly evening in great company. Whether you're competitive or just fancy a knock-about and a chat, there's a place for you.

Come along in September, bring a friend if you like, and see what all the fun is about!

New members are always welcome—we'd love to see you there.

Rogart Hall Calendar

Rogart Hub is held every Tuesday from 11.00 am– 2.30pm.

Table Tennis is held every Tuesday from 15th September, 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

Karate Class held every Wednesday from 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

Vets every Wednesday from 9.00 am– 5.00pm.

Coffee & Blether, Thursday 17th September, 15th October, 19th November, 10th December. 10.30am – 12.00.

Friday night dancing commences on Friday 25th September to Friday 27th November inclusive. 7.30pm – 8.30pm (£2.00pp every Friday)

Strath Fleet Buttons & Bows practice dates: Monday 14th September, 28th September, 12th October, 26th October, 9th November, 23rd November, 30th November. 7.00pm – 9.00pm. ((2.00 pp every practice).

Our Ceilidh Dance evening is to be held on Saturday 5th December at 7.00pm – 11.00pm. Guests are Zoe & Jack Livings. Dance to The Rogart Ceilidh Band.

Sutherland Accordion & Fiddle Club practice dates: Every Thursday from 17th September to 17th December inclusive. 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Sutherland Accordion & Fiddle Club Ceilidh dance evenings – 7.30pm – 11.45pm. £5.00 entry including refreshment. B.Y.O.B. Saturday 17th October with Robert Nairn.

Saturday 14th November with David Oswald Trio.

Saturday 12th September – Day of Wellness– 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Saturday 24th October – Soup & Sweet – 11.30 am– 2.00pm.

Friday 20th November – Quiz night (after dancing) 7.30pm – 10.00pm.

Saturday November 21st – Christmas Wreath making workshop – 10.00 am– 1.00pm. Details and booking: Charlotte Gibson [01408641225](tel:01408641225) or c.gibson555@btinternet.com

Saturday 28th November – PTA Christmas extravaganza -- 11.00 am– 3.00pm.

Saturday 12th December – Christmas lunch for the over 60s Music, fun and games!!!! 12.00 – 4.00pm.

For the Hall fundraising events in September - November, you will see everything advertised on FB along with posters in the village.

Rogart Mart Events

Saturday 5th September - Market & Crofters pop up - 11.00 am - 2.00pm

Thursday 10th September - Blas Concert <https://www.blas.scot/events/rogart-> 7.30pm.

Monday 14th September - Budapest Cafe Orchestra - 7.30pm. Saturday 19 September - Crofters Pop Up - 1.00pm - 3.00pm.

Saturday 3rd October - Crofters pPopUp - 1.00pm - 3.00pm.

Saturday 3rd October - Swish - 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Saturday 28th November - Christmas eExtravaganza 11.00am - 3.00pm (Combined with PTA held in the hall)

School Report



Troy planting an oak seedling



Having fun on balance bikes with Pedal Pursuits



Archery lessons with Mr Sharp



Mikey'sline - Hive on the Road calls in on Rogart

Mikey'sline is an Inverness-based mental health and suicide prevention charity covering the Highlands, Islands, and Moray, providing lifeline peer support to people of all ages (11+) and genders via text line, WhatsApp, Messenger, callback, and in-person support.

Founded following the tragic loss of two best friends, Martin Shaw and Michael Williamson, to suicide within 448 hours of each other in 2015, our charity provides a compassionate and confidential space for anyone to talk about whatever is impacting their mental health.

Our Hive on the Road vehicles enable us to drive our support into local communities that may find it difficult to access support. For more information or to find out when the Hive on The Road will next be in your area, please email enquiries@mikeysline.co.uk. Whether you're struggling with anxiety, depression, emotional distress, and/or thoughts of suicide, Mikey'sline is here to listen without judgement.

It's okay not to be okay

Our Services:

Textline: 07786 207755

Webchat via www.mikeysline.co.uk

Messenger

WhatsApp 01463 729000

(Sun-Thu, 6pm-10pm Fri-Sat, 7pm-7am)

Book a 1:1, in-person appointment at <https://oursupport.mikeysline.co.uk/appointments/>

