



LOCAL & GLOBAL

THE GLENWYVIS DISTILLERY NEWSLETTER

April 2017

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR DISTILLERY STEEL FRAME

Our latest update on the **GlenWyvis** build

We saw major strides forward in the distillery build throughout March. Most significantly, the design team placed the order for the steel frame for the distillery and we are very happy to announce that the contract was won by Dingwall firm **James Evans and Sons Ltd.** This is a significant landmark, and we are looking forward to working with Evans over the coming months.

Also, with the drainage work now complete, the site is fully prepared for the foundations to go in. Work will start on the foundations in April, and preparatory work will also soon start on the bonded warehouse site to the east of the main distillery site.

Since our last update, construction of the retaining wall has been completed. The wall is made of stone-filled gabion baskets – and it was a substantial undertaking. Some 500 tonnes of rock from nearby **Achilty Quarry** were transported to the site, and then had to be put into the baskets by hand. The embankment behind the retaining wall, around the distillery site, is now ready for landscaping.



GLENWYVIS BASECAMP ALL SET TO OPEN IN APRIL

Our ambition to make Dingwall the craft-distilling town of Scotland comes one step closer this month with the opening of **GlenWyvis** Basecamp down in the town itself.

The design for our interim visitor centre within the Victoria Restaurant is complete and the installation is scheduled for early April. Incorporating displays on local whisky history, gin tasting sessions and unique retail opportunities, **GlenWyvis** Basecamp will be a featured stop-off point on the North Coast 500 passport scheme, which is due to be launched at the end of April.

Dates for the launch of Basecamp and the summer opening hours are still to be confirmed, and will be published on our social media as soon as possible. Also as announced last month we are looking for volunteers to help us run **GlenWyvis** Basecamp – so if you are interested in helping then send your name and CV to Josh Fraser at josh.fraser@glenwyvis.com.



APRIL UPDATE ON EIS FOR UK-BASED MEMBERS

UK-based members who may be able to claim tax relief on their investment under the UK Government's Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) will be keen to know that we are working with HMRC to finalise arrangements and will get the necessary forms sent out to you as soon as possible.

GlenWyvis Inspiration #2

The latest feature on our local whisky heritage

Tales of illicit distilling in Highland glens

Visit any remote spot in a Highland glen that is close to a water source and once had human habitation nearby, and you can assume an illicit still once stood there. For many Highland crofters living between the 15th and 19th centuries the freedom to make your own whisky at home was considered a birth-right. In the northern Highlands particularly, like the west of Ireland, small-scale illicit whisky production was an integral part of daily life.

When the Government outlawed cottage-industry whisky production in 1780, whisky distilling continued but under clandestine conditions. Often the local magistrates, landowners and even the excisemen themselves were complicit in illicit production, known as 'smuggling.' The taverns of eighteenth-century Dingwall and Inverness were full of illicit whisky, but local authorities turned a blind eye.

The exciseman or 'gauger' is one of the great villains of whisky folklore. Battles between gaugers and illicit distillers were often fought to the death, showing the importance of whisky to both the government and the people.

For example, on 6th May 1816, the gauger Robert Reikie was travelling to Tore, near Dingwall, on a tip-off that someone was illicitly distilling whisky in the woods. On the road, Reikie was confronted by Alexander Gray, the suspected smuggler. According to the police report, Gray struck Reikie 'many severe blows with his fists, and tore his coat and waistcoat off his back.' Reikie recovered himself, and proceeded to the site of Gray's distillery which he described as being of 'considerable dimensions' and containing 'a quantity of low wines.' Reikie destroyed the distillery and Gray went on the run – a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Against this background of strife, something had to give. Following a government enquiry in 1822, the Excise Act of 1823 effectively broke the back of the illicit market and laid the foundations for the modern whisky industry as it exists today. Duty-free warehouses were legalised for all spirits, taxes on cereals were lifted, a licence fee of £10 introduced, and processes were standardised resulting in a better-quality product. Legal distillers could now compete with illegal ones on both price and quality. The production of legal whisky almost doubled between 1823 and 1824.

Today, all that remains from the smuggling era are abandoned still bothies in remote glens, and an enduring popularity for Highland single malt whisky! Although today, of course, we leave whisky to mature in casks for at least three years – but back in the days of smuggling, people would drink the 'whisky' straight from the still!

You can find more information on illicit distilling in Easter Ross on the North of Scotland Archaeology Society's website. It makes for fascinating reading!



The Illicit Highland Whisky Still
by Edwin Henry Landseer
(1802-1873)

GLENWYVIS OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



GLENWYVIS AND THE MASTERS OF DESIGN AT THE KINGSMILLS HOTEL

Craig attended the **Scottish Design Masters Golf Course Architects Conference** on March 2nd, where he led a tutored tasting of **GlenWyvis** Gin and Highland Inspiration single malt whisky. A host of international golf course designers and architects attended the conference, held at the **Kingsmills Hotel**, which showcased not only the best of the Highlands' golf course design, but also its food and drink. Both **GlenWyvis** Gin and **Highland Inspiration** went down very well, with many attendees expressing interest in stocking the products at various golf courses in the future. Guests were also very interested in the community and sustainability-driven ethos of the distillery.

GIN TASTING RAISES FUNDS FOR HIGHLAND HOSPICE

On March 3rd, **GlenWyvis** supported a fundraising event for **Highland Hospice** that was held in the Victoria Hall in Cromarty. The sell-out event was an entertaining evening of drink and music, and alongside **GlenWyvis** were fellow craft producers **Dunnet Bay Distillers**, **Persie Distillery**, **Thistly Cross Cider** and **Cromarty Brewery**. Neil Stewart, manager of the **Storehouse**, was also in attendance making delicious cocktails with the gin that was on offer.

The event was a great success, and a great opportunity for **GlenWyvis** to chat to local people from the Black Isle about the project, as well as making those all-important sales.



INVERNESS WHISKY & GIN FESTIVAL

The increasingly popular **Inverness Whisky & Gin Festival** runs this year from **18th – 22nd April**. **GlenWyvis Distillery** will be taking part in the festival's finale, **The Big Day Out**, at Bogbain Farm. Craig and the team will be there all day on **Saturday 22nd** with a **GlenWyvis** stall full of gin, whisky, gifts and samples. **Tickets are available to buy at www.invernesswhiskygin.com.**





NEW NC500 GIN CELEBRATES THE BEST OF THE HIGHLANDS

In conjunction with the opening of GlenWyvis Basecamp, we are launching a new North Coast 500 **GlenWyvis** Gin. The North Coast 500 is a world-renowned scenic touring route that celebrates the best of the Scottish Highlands. A total of 600 bottles, of the NC500 gin will be bottled at 50.0% abv in tribute to the iconic route, and each bottle will be individually numbered.

Our NC500 **GlenWyvis** Gin will be available to buy direct from **GlenWyvis** Basecamp.

GlenWyvis and NC500 share a vision of innovative, community-led development – and as stated previously **GlenWyvis** Basecamp on Dingwall High Street will be a featured stop-off point on the NC500 passport scheme which is due to the launch at the end of the month. This will help to bring more NC500 visitors into the heart of town as they seek to complete the route and collect all their 'passport' stamps.

UNIQUE **GlenWyvis** OFFERS FOR MEMBERS ONLY

New candles created for GlenWyvis Distillery

We are also delighted to announce a new partnership with the Dornoch-based **Coast Candle Co.** who have created a luxurious new scented candle for us inspired by the botanicals used in **GlenWyvis** Gin.

The candle is fragranced with sweet citrus orange, lemon peel, cinnamon, fresh coriander and the evergreen juniper... a heavenly botanical scent! The candles come in three sizes and are available to buy now from our **online shop**.



GlenWyvis teams up with Klas Klothing

Our members are our most valued ambassadors, so we are very excited to announce the launch of a new range of branded **GlenWyvis** clothing, in partnership with **Klas Klothing** in Inverness.

You can now help to promote YOUR distillery by wearing a stylish **GlenWyvis** T-shirt, jumper, hoodie, fleece, jacket, hat and/or scarf. And if you like to hold dinner parties, we even have a **GlenWyvis** branded apron available - best worn with a **GlenWyvis** gin and tonic in hand!

All items come in standard or women's fit and in a wide range of sizes. The range can also be personalised on request. You will find the link to the full range of **GlenWyvis** clothing on our **online shop**.

Inspiration for our members

We also want to remind members they can still buy our limited edition single malt whisky, **Highland Inspiration**, at the special price of £45 plus postage. Please phone our office direct on 01349 862005 to place an order.

