



LOCAL & GLOBAL

THE GLENWYVIS DISTILLERY NEWSLETTER

July 2017

GLENWYVIS READY FOR ITS STILLS

Distillery Build Update July



On-site and on-track! From left: James Cameron (Director), Hazel Allen (Director), David O'Connor (Chairman), Cait Gillespie (History Curator).



Investors and team members at Forsyths with GlenWyvis spirit still.

June was the most exciting month yet for the **GlenWyvis** Distillery build. The steel frame is up! James Evans and Sons Ltd are now busy fitting the cladding. This means that everything is on-track for the arrival of the distilling equipment later this month.

On 12th June we took four competition winners to Forsyths in Rothes to see the distilling equipment under fabrication. We'd like to thank Forsyths for showing us around. It was fascinating to see the different parts of the copper and steel work all at different stages of completion. But of course, the most exciting part of the tour was seeing the two **GlenWyvis** stills - next time we see them, they'll be getting carefully lifted out of a lorry and into the distillery!

Remember you can follow the build progress as it unfolds via our **live webcams**. The cameras are in operation Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

GLENWYVIS BASECAMP A HUB OF ACTIVITY

On Saturday 10th June, **GlenWyvis** officially opened Basecamp, our visitor reception space on Dingwall High Street. A crowd of **GlenWyvis** members and local Dingwall residents joined us for the opening, which was filmed by local film company DP Digital Media.

It was fantastic to see people enjoying the new space - thanks to everyone who came along, especially those who travelled a long way. The video footage will feature in a promotional film we're making - we'll share it with you as soon as it's ready!



We're now busy planning a summer of tasting events at Basecamp. Our first one will be on Thursday 13th July as part of Dingwall Gala week. **GlenWyvis** team member Craig MacRitchie will host the tasting, which starts at 7pm. On offer will be a selection of gin and whisky, complemented by Craig's rich whisky and gin knowledge, and good craic! After that, the next tasting will be on Friday 21st July, 7:30-8:30pm.

Bookings will be taken on a first come first serve basis. Please call the **GlenWyvis** office on 01349 862005 to reserve your place. Please note bookings are reserved to two per person.

MOVING AHEAD ON ALL FRONTS

SECOND SHARE OFFER TO OPEN DOOR TO NEW MEMBERS

With construction of the distillery continuing at pace, and the building now visibly taking shape, we are making great progress forward in our bid to have the first run of spirit before Christmas. Against this backdrop, the board has brought forward the launch of the second open share offer to open the door to new members.

The open share offer will launch on August 3rd to meet the continuing demand for investment opportunities from both locals and visitors. Funds raised towards a target of £750,000, will also help to reduce commercial borrowing, and to accelerate our brand development plans in line with the feedback we received from members in our recent survey. This will include making improvements to our brand and product offering, bringing gin distilling into Dingwall, and further development of the **GlenWyvis** visitor experience.

The minimum level investment will be £250 for all investors regardless of where they live – but this offer will have different terms & conditions from the original 2016 share offer and new investors will receive less rewards than founder members. We've also made it easier to gift an investment – so for just £250 it's now possible to gift part-ownership of a whisky distillery to friends or family anywhere.

The decision to open up the £250 investment to everyone has been made to widen membership in **GlenWyvis** to as many people as possible. Our aim is to reach local people who missed out on the original offer, and to make membership accessible to visitors who come to explore the Highlands. We believe that more investors will translate into more visitors both for **GlenWyvis** and for the town of Dingwall – which will mean more business.

GlenWyvis Distillery founder and managing director, John McKenzie, said: "The second share offer was always in our plans – and we've now brought it forward to give a new audience the opportunity to be part of our community-owned distillery.

"People who missed the original share offer in 2016 are always asking if they can invest, and even more so now that we've opened **GlenWyvis** Basecamp, and local people can also see the distillery building taking shape. It is an exciting time, and this new share offer will not only help us to fast-track our brand developments plans, but will reduce our bank lending, so we can deliver on our community benefit remit sooner."

For more information on the open share offer, contact the distillery directly on info@glenwyvis.com or keep an eye on our social media channels.

NORTH COAST 500 PASSPORT

North Coast 500 has unveiled its new passport scheme – and GlenWyvis Basecamp is one of the 25 recommended stops!

Passport holders must get a stamp at each of the 25 locations to complete the passport and receive a unique engraved NC500 whisky glass. Other local stop-off points include Strathpeffer Pump Room and Inverness Floral Hall.

The passport scheme will encourage greater tourist footfall in Dingwall, great for GlenWyvis and other local businesses.

Travelling between the Seaboard villages and Dingwall

A straightforward section of the route, as the traveller is on the A9 road all the way to Dingwall. The journey time is about 40 minutes, but this is a busy road, and delays sometimes happen. On the Black Isle, many visit Chanony Point to watch the Dolphins as they come in on the tide.



24 GlenWyvis Distillery

GlenWyvis Distillery in Dingwall is the world's first 100% community-owned distillery. In 2016, GlenWyvis ran the UK's biggest ever community crowd-funding campaign and with support from the local community and far beyond, they raised £2.5 million in 77 days – an overwhelming response.

While building work on the distillery finished, GlenWyvis Basecamp was set up in the



Victoria restaurant on Dingwall High Street. Here you can enjoy a tippie of GlenWyvis Gin, or a wee dram of limited edition bottling of single malt whisky, Highland Inspiration. Dedicated members of the GlenWyvis team will also be there to tell you all about what the distillery means for the local community, and how the distillery build is progressing. You may even choose to join them on one of our local whisky heritage tours, which launch in the summer of 2017.

But much more than that, when you visit GlenWyvis Basecamp you could become part of the story by investing!

For the latest GlenWyvis Basecamp opening hours, please check the website or call on 07954749609.



- Sutor Creek Cafe, Cromarty
- Novar Estate, (between Invergordon and Dingwall), accommodation, fishing and outdoor pursuits
- The Black Isle Brewing Company, Old Allangrange
- The Sports and Model Shop, Dingwall.



The passport is available to purchase on the North Coast 500 online shop.

BEN WYVIS: DINGWALL'S INNOVATIVE VICTORIAN DISTILLERY

Ben Wyvis Distillery (1879-1926) in Dingwall was in its day 'considered the largest and most expensively-completed' distillery in the north of Scotland. It was the brainchild of D. G. Ross, a Dingwall ironmonger, agricultural merchant, farmer, town Baillie and engineering enthusiast.

Ross had an ambition to build a whisky distillery that reflected the advancements in technology created by the Industrial Revolution. Dingwall's proximity to the Cromarty Firth and the recently established Highland Railway line meant it was logistically perfect for a distillery. Ross chose a site to the south of the town, beside the railway line. In the future, the distillery would have its own sidings, allowing trains to deliver grain and coal with ease.

Ben Wyvis was built into the face of a hill. It took 90 men 9 months to blast away the hillside, clearing away over 200,000 cubic metres of earth and solid rock, which was then used as building material.

The distillery opened in the summer of 1879 and soon had a staff of over 40 people. Described as a 'magnificent pile,' distillery buildings sat atop descending terraces that ran down the hillside, with the offices and customs and excise building at the bottom of the hill, level with the road.

Ross was an early adopter of what we would call renewable energy techniques – Victorian style! The waste water from

the still condensers passed over a small water-wheel that drove the agitating gear of the wash still. The distillery's steam boiler was heated solely by the waste heat from the flues from the stills. This steam boiler in return heated the stills, and was used to steam-clean distillery equipment. Ross also made the most of the site's steep gradient. Instead of deploying pumps, Ross used gravity and an ingenious network of elevators to keep everything moving.

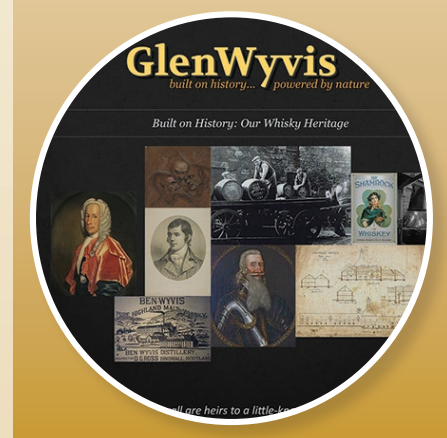
Ross was so confident in the potential of his modern distillery that the initial plans allowed for the doubling of production. If Ross had wanted to increase the distillery's output twofold, all he would have needed was additional wash backs and a new still and condenser.

The expansion of Ben Wyvis Distillery, however, was not to be. Ross's health soon began to fail – the stress and strain of managing such a large operation, in addition to his other business ventures, took its toll. In 1887, he sold Ben Wyvis to Scotch Whisky Distillers. Two years later, the new owners went into liquidation and Ben Wyvis was put up for sale again. It passed over to Belfast

whisky blenders and merchants Kirker Greer & Co, who renamed the distillery Ferintosh in 1893 following a spate of bad publicity.

Ferintosh Distillery closed in 1926, during the tough years of US prohibition and economic depression. The distillery stood empty for decades, but was eventually demolished in 1993 to make way for flats. The bonded warehouses and the distillery offices, however, are still intact and can be seen as you come in to Dingwall from Maryburgh.

Find out more about Ross-shire's local whisky heritage on our new history webpage.



Above: Ben Wyvis advert 1882 Ross-shire Journal.
Left: workers at Ben Wyvis Distillery

Events Updates

Neil Gunn Writing Competition

The finalists of the 2016/17 Neil Gunn Writing Competition were recognised at a ceremony on 16th June at Dingwall Academy.

GlenWyvis sponsored the first prize in the adult short story section, which was won by Richard Bennett. His short story, **On the Hill**, was commended by lead judge Michel Faber as 'pitch-perfect.'

The protagonist is an Aberdeenshire forestry worker, whose story is told in Doric. Despite his initial trepidations over the dialect, Faber said Bennett's skilful writing gave the Scottish tale a universal appeal.

All the winning entries are available to read on the **High Life Highland** website.



Michel Faber (centre), Richard Bennett (far right), and Ann Yule, Neil Gunn Trust Convenor (second from left), with two other finalists.

Spirit of Skye Festival

GlenWyvis was at the inaugural Spirit of Skye Festival last month, held at the Aros Centre in Portree. Craig and Cait were there to offer tastings of **GlenWyvis** Gin and Highland Inspiration single malt whisky, which went down very well with the attendees.

The weather was particularly poor over the weekend, so the festival was a welcome retreat from the relentless rain outside!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nairn Show

Kinnudie Farm, Auldern
Saturday 19th July, 9am start.

Black Isle Show

Muir of Ord
Wednesday 2nd – Thursday 3rd August.



HELP ADVERTISE YOUR DISTILLERY

We'd like to remind members that they can wear their own **GlenWyvis** branded clothing. We have **GlenWyvis** polo shirts, T-shirts, V-neck jumpers, fleeces, softshell jackets, hoodies, caps, beanies and aprons - visit the **GlenWyvis** online shop to buy yours.

Here's **GlenWyvis** Ambassador Marwa MacDonald wearing her Ladies Fit Softshell Jacket.



www.glenwyvis.com



@glenwyvis

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