

# BENNACHIE COMMUNITY NEWS

## CONTENTS

**INTRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER** .1  
**WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA**.....2  
**NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY** ...2  
**LOCAL GROUPS IN THE AREA**..... 14

## WHERE TO GET PRINTED COPIES

Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch;  
The Old Post Office and  
Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel  
of Garioch; Morgan McVeighs,  
Colpy; Kellockbank and Smile at  
Oyne, Logie Durno Hall, Poppy's  
Old Rayne and Insch Library.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

If you have a group or event  
coming up and want this added  
into the next newsletter email

[bennachiecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:bennachiecommunitynews@gmail.com)

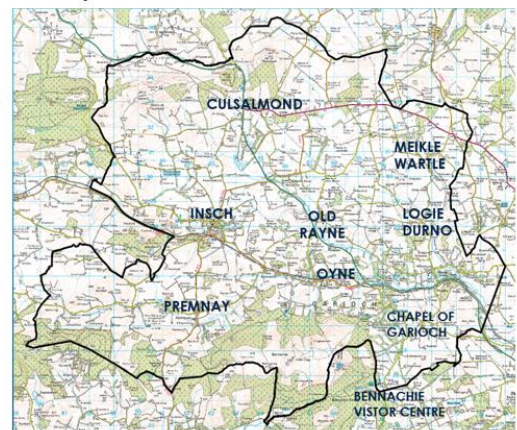
At the time of print all facts  
were correct as far as we could  
verify.

## INTRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER

The aim of this newsletter is to promote what is going on in the Bennachie Community Council area and also inform people within the area what's happening.

The Bennachie Community Area covers

- Insch
- Chapel of Garioch
- Culsalmond
- Leslie
- Oyne
- Premnay
- Meikle Wartle
- Rayne
- Durno
- Pitcaple
- Duncanstone



We would like to say a massive thank you to the Glens of Foudland Community Windfarm Trust for the grant they gave us. This grant has enabled us to continue bringing our newsletter to you. Thank you very much.

We are starting to implement the actions on our Community Action Plan and you will hear more about this in the newsletter on our Bennachie Community Council Facebook page.

Have you considered Volunteering?



The majority of groups mentioned in the newsletter are run by volunteers and they are always on the lookout for more help. Why not join them and make a difference.

## WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

APRIL	What	Where
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Leith Hall Season Begins	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Quiz Night	Insch Golf Club
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Hillgoers - Hill Skills Workshop Fleece 4 Ewe - Needle Felt Workshop	The Bennachie Centre, Pitcaple
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Coffee Morning	Insch Golf Club
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Hillgoers – NNAS Tutor Award Course	The Bennachie Centre, Pitcaple
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Hillgoers – Silver Navigation Award	The Bennachie Centre, Pitcaple
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Stay and Play Sessions for families	The Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Egg Trail	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Afternoon Teas 12pm to 3pm	Insch Golf Club
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Hillgoers – Bronze Navigation Award	The Bennachie Centre, Pitcaple
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Pop Up Pub	Old Rayne Village Hall, Old Rayne
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Craft Spring Fayre	The Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
MAY	What	Where
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10am Coffee Morning & Plant Sale	Wartle Village Hall, Meikle Wartle
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Spring Family Ceilidh Stay and Play Sessions for families	The Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Garden Yoga	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Garden Tai Chi	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Fun Dog Show	The Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Corporate Networking from 11 am to 1 pm	The Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
JUNE	What	Where
7th to 15th June	Great Big Green Week	The Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Dog Show	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
8 <sup>TH</sup> June	STRAWBERRY FAYRE	Insch Hospital Grounds, Rannes St.
21st June	Leith Hall's 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Party	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
22th June	Tai Chi	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Fun day and Family ceilidh	Logie Durno Hall, Pitcaple, AB51 5EJ
21 <sup>st</sup> June	3pm Mid-Summer Topsy Tea Party	Wartle Village Hall, Meikle Wartle

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY



### BENNACHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Bennachie Community Council (BCC) is a group of elected local volunteers who liaise with Aberdeenshire Council and other groups to represent the views of the area. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month and our next meeting is on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking

for one new member each from Insch, Meikle Wartle / Durno and Premnay areas. If you want to help your community, please let us know at [bennachieCC@outlook.com](mailto:bennachieCC@outlook.com)

So, who are we: - Chairperson: Andy Miller (Oyne), Vice Chair: Kevin Shand (Culsalmond and Colpy), Treasurer: Wally Rhodes (Leslie), Secretary: Lynda Bain (Chapel of Garioch) Alan Simpson (Leslie), Frank Musgrave (Oyne), Mark Worsley and Duncan Thow (Chapel of Garioch, Whiteford and Pitcaple), Gill Walker and Diana Muriel (Rayne), Gill Bishop (Durno and Meikle Wartle) David Wylie (Premnay), Janette Taylor, Gordon Hood, Vikki Patis, Fran Moldaschl and Fiona Heinonen (Insch)

We are supported by our 3 Councillors: - Moray Grant, Sam Payne and Hazel Smith.

If you want to contact us our email is [bennachiecc@outlook.com](mailto:bennachiecc@outlook.com) or see our [Facebook](#) page

The five main topics we are looking at just now which are keeping us really busy are: -

1. Inch Hospital and health care within our area.
2. Resilience Planning. Work is ongoing at looking at village hall resilience.
3. Community Action Plans and Local Place plans.
4. Developments within the area i.e. Coreen Windfarm and Battery Energy Storage at Meikle Wartle.
5. We have also just started up a paths/green space group.

## **Healthcare in BCC area.**

BCC has continued to try and work with Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to progress the actions agreed when the Integration Joint Board decided not to reopen Inch Hospital after covid. With the Friends of Inch Hospital we have been trying to schedule a meeting with the Chair and officers of the IJB to find out why, two years after the IJB's decision not to reopen the hospital, there has been no progress on the three actions intended to offset the loss of in-patient beds. Although the Chair of the IJB had offered to hold a meeting, there now seems to be a reluctance to go ahead with that meeting.

As a result of government funding constraints NHS(Grampian) and AHSCP need to make significant cost reductions. Reserves have been used in prior years so the position is now critical. We have been working with AHSCP to keep abreast of what is happening and as far as possible influence local outcomes. We held a meeting with the AHSCP to understand the position, reviewed documents and sat in on the IJB budget meeting and have subsequently had a meeting with Aberdeenshire Council Garioch Area Manager and the local AHSCP management. There is a shortfall of some £17m this year so AHSCP are undertaking reviews of a lot of basic services, including all Community Hospitals and the Aberdeenshire Care Home estate. There are likely to be significant changes in services, although major changes will not be introduced until 2026. While we can't prevent this, BCC intends to be inside the tent to influence as far as we can local impacts.

Some good news on the healthcare front. The Friends of Inch Hospital have sourced some funding to run a dementia support group.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

Work is ongoing implementing the actions that have been set out in the Community Action Plan which is available on our Bennachie Community Council website [Home | Bennachie Community Council | Aberdeenshire](#).

### **Greenspaces + Paths**

We have started a group looking at how we use our greenspaces and also a path group looking at creating paths to link up the villages in the area. Not only will this make it easier for people who don't drive to get about but it will encourage us to walk or cycle more. This includes looking at safer crossing places on the A96. If you want to get involved, please contact us at [BennachieCC@outlook.com](mailto:BennachieCC@outlook.com). Regarding Green Spaces why not visit Shevock Burns Allotments stand at the Strawberry Fayre to find out more about this group which is looking at allotments in Inch.

### **Local Development Trust**

An initial meeting took place in January about whether a Development Trust for the area would be a good idea. This is basically setting up a company which earns money to be used for improving the social, economic and environmental good of the area. There was interest in finding out more about this and it was agreed to arrange another meeting to invite DTAS to speak about development trusts and also The Huntly Development Trust have kindly said they would come along and share their experiences regarding setting up and running a Development Trust. We are hoping this will take place in April.

### **Local Place Plans**

95% of the people who responded to the Community Action Plan said they wanted a local place plan. This is basically a map of the area showing how the people who live in the area want to see their community grow in the next few years. It deals with how the land about us is used: where houses go, paths, green spaces, land



for commercial properties, pavements etc. You will start seeing lots of information about this on our Facebook page and website in April. We will also be coming to an event near you to ask your views. It is hoped to have the plans displayed at the Strawberry Fayre for you to comment on.

## Resilience

We are working on finalising a resilience plan for the area. Chapel of Garioch Hall is now resilient and has back up power available in the case of a power cut. Our halls are the heart of our communities and we are lucky to have such dedicated volunteers who run these groups ensuring the halls survival.

When there is a weather/flood/fire/draught warning we share all the information about this on the Bennachie Community Council [Facebook](#) Page. We also have our Resilience Newsletter on our website published in 2023 which has handy advice in it [https://www.bennachiecc.co.uk/files/ugd/4ceee3\\_bddf374a500f48c2ba62c71a31e9f29b.pdf](https://www.bennachiecc.co.uk/files/ugd/4ceee3_bddf374a500f48c2ba62c71a31e9f29b.pdf)

Hopefully the snow has gone for this year but something we would like to make you aware of for next year is the Snow Warden Scheme. It actively supports members of the local community who wish to offer their spare time to manually clear snow from publicly-adopted footways and footpaths.

The scheme runs from approximately 1st November to 31st March. More information can be found about this on Aberdeenshire Council's Website. [Volunteer snow wardens - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

## Travel

As part of the Community Action Plan, it was highlighted that the lack of public transport was an issue. One area we are working on is trying to provide transport for people to go to medical appointments. There is [THInC – Travel advice for Health and Social Care appointments](#) who give advice on travel and the Royal Voluntary Service who are looking for volunteers. Can you help them?

## **Royal Voluntary Service**

The Royal Voluntary Service provide operational support to a few service areas across Scotland. Our Patient Transport Service in Aberdeenshire supports vulnerable older people to get to and from the hospital and vital medical appointments. We are urgently

seeking more Volunteer Drivers specifically in our Community Council area. Can you help? Contact us on [grampiansupport@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:grampiansupport@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk) or phone us on 01224 937110

For more information see our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalVoluntaryServiceAberdeenshire/>



**ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

**VOLUNTEERS**  
*needed*

**Royal Voluntary Service urgently needs Volunteer Drivers in Aberdeenshire.**

**Would you like to use your driving skills and friendly nature to support people in your local community?**

To join our growing team of **Volunteer Drivers** – Patient Transport you will be offering a valuable 1-1 service taking clients to important medical, health and social appointments. We also help clients with food shopping. You must have access to your own vehicle – travel mileage expenses will be reimbursed. We will meet the cost of a PVG and provide full training.

If you could spare a couple of hours a week, we would love to hear from you.

[grampiansupport@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:grampiansupport@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)  
**01224 937110**

Registered charity 1013908 (England and Wales) SC238924 (Scotland)  
1013908/2023

Scan to find out more

Here is one volunteers story: -

Shortly after I retired, and as covid hit, I saw a request for RVS drivers. Somewhat delayed by Covid-19, I finished my induction, disclosure and training (mostly computer-based, and ongoing) in early 2021 and have been driving people to hospital or similar appointments, and sometimes shopping, ever since. More recently, I have also been driving a minibus to take groups on monthly shopping trips.

The joy of the work is meeting and talking to people from diverse backgrounds, many with a deep knowledge of the Garioch, its people and history, including names for local places that I've never heard of in 27 years living here.

The commitment is as much as you want to make it – perhaps three trips in a week or just one in three weeks.

It is satisfying to be able to help with short-notice jobs, when you can. Mileage is paid at the HMRC rate, but this and any other expenses can be donated.

If you think that you would enjoy volunteering, and enjoy driving and meeting people, please contact us.

## TRANSPORT

As all options for the **A96 Dualling** come through BCC area. During the various consultations BCC has not supported any one option. However, the **A96 Corridor Review** developed a **Refined Package of Interventions** comprising of: - Active Communities; Improved Public Transport Passenger Interchange Facilities; Investment in Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) and Mobility as a Service (MaaS); Linespeed, Passenger and Freight Capacity Improvements on the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway Line; Elgin Bypass; Keith Bypass; Targeted Road Safety Improvements; and A96 Electric Corridor. The refined package is estimated to cost in the range of £501 million to £1 billion at 2022 prices, which compares with a range of £2.5 billion to £5 billion for dualling the A96 from the east of Nairn to Aberdeen. The interventions are beneficial and have no signify downsides for BCC residents so BCC is actively supporting these recommendations rather than the A96 dualling.

The A96 Corridor Review recognises many issues we had previously raised: lack of public transport in rural areas, disabled access to transport, traffic levels between Inverurie and Elgin do not meet Transport Scotland's threshold for dualling; reduction in commuting and business travel since the pandemic; tension between car reduction to meet climate change targets and increasing road capacity by dualling, increasing rail capacity; need for "joined up" local bus and rail services. The final selection in 2020 did nothing to alleviate congestion in Inverurie, goes through mature woodland and destroys some of the best arable farmland in Scotland.

BCC has responded to the Scottish Government consultation in support of the Refined Package of Interventions and has written to local MSP's asking them to support our position with the Cabinet Secretary. If the A96 dualling is not going to go ahead and it is imperative for our area that targeted road

safety improvements go ahead as soon as possible which are beneficial and have no signify downsides for BCC residents.

Aberdeenshire Council have published their proposed plans to implement the Scottish Parliament policy of **default 20mph speed limit** on roads thorough settlements. See the [Home | Bennachie Community Council | Aberdeenshire](#) website for more details.

National Speed management review. To contribute to a reduction in deaths and injuries on Scottish roads on November 27th 2024 the Scottish Government published proposals to lower the national speed limit on single carriageway roads from 60 mph to 50 mph and to increase speed limits for goods vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes on single carriageways from 40 mph to 50 mph and dual carriageways from 50 mph to 60 mph. There was public a consultation (now closed). The BCC publicised the relevant information on their Facebook page and provided a link so that interested people could respond.

Amey, who operate the A96 on behalf of Transport Scotland, have offered to come to a future BCC meeting to discuss A96 issues.



Our library is going to remain open where it is. This is thanks to various groups of people who showed how important the library is to our community and also to those who showed their support. From the group who started the petition to save our library, to the Institute Trustees who worked with the Council to ensure it was viable for the library to stay where it was and to the people who worked on this in the background.

We are having a meeting with Aberdeenshire Council at the start of April to see how we can extend the opening hours to allow working parents to use the library. This was something that was asked for in our Community Action Plan. If you are interested in volunteering to work in the library for a few hours please contact [BennachieCC@outlook.com](mailto:BennachieCC@outlook.com)

## ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR AREA

For certain large scale energy developments these have to go to the Energy Consent Unit to deal with and the Scottish Ministers determine these. These are for: -

- \*Applications for consent for the construction, extension and operation of electricity generating stations with capacity in excess of 50 megawatts (applications below this threshold are made to Aberdeenshire Council local planning authority);
- \*Applications for the installation of certain overhead electric lines and associated infrastructure;
- \*Applications for necessary wayleaves to confer rights over land to install electric lines;
- \*Compulsory purchase orders promoted under the Electricity Act 1989;
- \*Applications for consent for large gas and oil pipelines.

We have two pre-planning applications for large energy infrastructure in our local area which will impact on us.

1.The Correen-Suie Windfarm and here is a link to the pre planning information for this [Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#)

These will be some of the tallest on shore wind turbines in the UK.

More up to date details can be found here about this windfarm which is for 10 wind turbines (8 at 200m tall and 2 at 180m tall – (Simalar size as those offshore Aberdeen)

[Home - Force 9 Energy - Correen Hills \(correenhillswindfarm.co.uk\)](#)

[CaShWIG - Home](#) (Correen and Suie Hills Windfarm Information Group - Cashwig.org)

2.The 500MW Battery Energy Storage System just outside Rothienorman at Blackford and here is a link to this pre planning application information. [Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#)

This will be one of the largest BESS systems in Europe. There are also other smaller BESS systems below 50MW in the area which are at various stages through the planning process.

Please look at the websites to find out more information about the proposals.

## INSCH LESLIE PREMNAY OYNE PARISH CHURCH



Easter is a time of renewal—a moment to pause, reflect, and perhaps even rediscover a sense of hope. As the days grow longer and spring begins to take hold, this season offers a chance to step back from the busyness of life and consider what truly matters.

Whether or not church is part of your usual routine, you are warmly invited to join us for this special time of year. Our local churches are opening their doors for a series of services that offer space for reflection, connection, and, ultimately, celebration:

\***Maundy Thursday** (6:00 PM) A Last Supper meal at St Drostan’s remembering Jesus sharing bread and wine on his last evening. All are welcome. If you would like to come, please let Alastair know 07513400081 or [macinsch@gmail.com](mailto:macinsch@gmail.com)

(7:00 PM) – A quiet, contemplative evening at Insch Leslie Premnay Oyne Church reflecting on themes of community, humility, and the significance of the Last Supper.

\***Good Friday** (7:00 PM, Insch Church) – A joint Service of Reflection, marking a moment of deep thought and remembrance.

\* **Easter Sunday** – A morning of joy and renewal as we celebrate life, hope, and new beginnings. Both churches will be gathering to share in this uplifting occasion. 10am at St Drostan’s and 10.30am at Insch Leslie, Premnay and Oyne Church.

If you’ve ever felt curious about stepping into a church, Easter might just be the perfect time to do so. No expectations, no pressure—just an open invitation to be part of something meaningful.

Wishing you a season of peace and possibility.  
Ian Manson



### INSCH BOWLING CLUB

Outdoor Bowling starts on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Bowling is on Monday and Friday nights, 6.50pm for 7pm start. Why not give it a try. See our [Facebook](#) page for details.



## ST DROSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INSCH



We gather for worship every Sunday at 10am and after the service we enjoy a hot drink and a fine piece. Everyone is welcome to join our Sunday service and refreshments afterwards.

Every Monday from 11.30am to 1.30pm we have our Community Café in the hall at the back of the church. Why not come and enjoy a soup lunch, a fine piece, a hot drink and a chance to enjoy chatting with others.

The new Church Hall at the back of St Drostan's is available for hire. We have a great kitchen, four toilets, a small meeting room and space in the garden that can be used. The church itself can also be hired for events. For more information on hiring the hall or any of our other activities please contact Alastair on 07513 400081 or macinsch@gmail.com



## BENNACHIE LEISURE CENTRE

Spring News from Bennachie Leisure Centre: New Beginnings and Exciting Events Ahead!

Spring has well and truly sprung, and there's a buzz of excitement in the air at Bennachie Leisure Centre Charity! As we embrace the warmer weather, we continue to grow, develop, and provide services that support our community and beyond. Whether it's helping people overcome barriers to employment, offering a space for families to come together, or hosting wellbeing classes to keep you healthy and active, we're committed to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

### A New Step Forward: Our Employability Programme

We're excited to share that our new employability programme is off to a fantastic start! Launched six months ago, this initiative aims to support people who are not in employment, education, or training, or those facing barriers to finding work. Rural unemployment and isolation are challenges we're tackling head-on, with a programme offering training in a variety of skills that lead to positive outcomes.

Participants gain valuable experience in areas such as hospitality, food preparation, kitchen work, retail, facilities management, and sports leadership.

The programme's goal is to equip individuals with the tools they need to move into paid employment, volunteering, education, or other purposeful activities.

Earlier this year, we were thrilled to receive funding from Aberdeenshire Council to support the programme, and we can't thank them enough for their generous backing. This funding has made a real difference, and we're now looking for further support to continue and expand the programme, allowing us to accommodate even more participants.

We're also incredibly proud to announce that, thanks to this initiative, we've been able to offer employment to two individuals who had previously been long-term unemployed. Watching them build their skills and confidence has been truly inspiring, and today, they are valued members of our team. Their journey is a perfect example of the positive impact this programme can have, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements!

**Bennachie Leisure Centre Charity**  
**FUN DOG SHOW**  
May 25th  
from 10AM  
**12 CATEGORIES INCLUDING**  
BEST FANCY DRESS | CUSTEST EYES  
BEST FRIENDS | WAGGIEST TAIL  
ENTRY £2    £1 for subsequent categories    Fantastic prizes donated by Inverurie Pet Supplies!  
RAISING FUNDS FOR BENNACHIE LEISURE CENTRE CHARITY  
contact info@blcinsch.co.uk for more info

### Growing Together: Our Community Gardening Group

Another exciting development at our charity is our community gardening group. Volunteers are coming together to plant bulbs, tidy up the centre's grounds,

and create a vibrant, welcoming environment. We're also working on building accessible raised beds to grow small amounts of produce for our community café, and to serve as an educational space for teaching sustainable gardening practices and telling the story of food from field to fork.

If you're keen to get your hands dirty and join us, we'd love to welcome new volunteers! Just reach out to us for more details.

### Networking, Sustainability, and More

We're excited to host our first corporate networking event on May 28th from 11 am to 1 pm, in partnership with our recycling sponsor, One Stop Waste. North-east business people are invited to this free event to get ahead of upcoming changes in Scottish waste legislation, including the introduction of the Landfill Ban and new environmental taxes. Ross Skene from One Stop Waste will lead a practical session, and we'll be providing a light buffet lunch from our community café. Make sure to secure your place by emailing [ross@onestopwaste.com](mailto:ross@onestopwaste.com).

### Spring into Fun: Upcoming Community Events

The excitement doesn't stop there! We've got a jam-packed calendar of events to look forward to, so be sure to mark your diaries:

- Spring Craft, Makers, and Artists Fair – 26th April. There are still spaces available for sellers! Contact us at [admin@blcinsch.co.uk](mailto:admin@blcinsch.co.uk) for a booking form. The café will be open for delicious lunches and treats.
- Spring Family Ceilidh – 17th May, with Sharon Hassan. Tickets available soon from the centre.
- Fun Family Dog Show – 25th May, starting at 10 am, with categories for all dogs and their owners (such as "cutest eyes" – for the dogs, of course!). Watch for more details on our social media pages.
- Stay and Play Sessions for families – 12th April, 3rd and 17th May, featuring our sensory breakout room.
- Great Big Green Week – 7th to 15th June, in partnership with the Co-op. Join us for sustainability events, specials in the café, and sustainability highlights in our charity shop, Twice is Nice.



### Supporting the Centre

Remember, just popping into our café for a cuppa or purchasing a pre-loved item from our charity shop, Twice is Nice, helps sustain the centre. Every purchase makes a difference, so come along and support us – we'd love to see you!

As always, thank you for being a part of Bennachie Leisure Centre's growing community. We love having you involved and being part of the exciting things happening here.



We're looking forward to welcoming you back to the Bennachie Visitor Centre as we open for the 2025 season on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. We'll be open every day during the season from 10am to 4.30pm and admission is free.



Lots to see and do this year, so why not join us for an event or visit one of our special exhibitions or discovery displays. For information, including booking of events and workshops, please visit our website [www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk](http://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk) or join us on Facebook for all the latest news [www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre](http://www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre)

What's On April to June

## APRIL



- 5th Hillgoers - Hill Skills Workshop
- 5th Fleece 4 Ewe - Needle Felt Workshop
- 6<sup>th</sup> Hillgoers – NNAS Tutor Award Course
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Hillgoers – Silver Navigation Award
- 26th & 27th Hillgoers – Bronze Navigation Award

Visit our April exhibition – a selection of unique needle felt pictures and landscapes by Zoe from Fleece 4 Ewe and if you're looking to start growing your own this year, don't miss the seed potato and onion set giveaway from our April Discovery Display by One Seed Forward.

## MAY

Our special exhibition for May is by Richard Salway Photographic with his fabulous landscapes and don't miss the May Discovery Display by Aberdeen Mountain Rescue.

**JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>** - Hillgoers – Hill Skills Workshop

We're delighted to be joined by Nik Munro Designs in June – visit her exhibition in the Community Room. Our 'treemendous' Discovery Display is all about conifers.

## GROUP VISITS

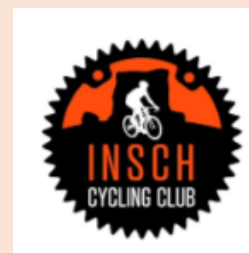
Calling all club secretaries and committees....looking for somewhere different for your summer outing this year? We'd be delighted to see you. Enjoy an illustrated talk, catch up over a cuppa or enjoy a forest stroll. To arrange your bespoke visit please email us [bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or give us a call on 01467 681470.

## ROOM HIRE

Did you know that our Community Room is available for hire during our opening hours? Get in touch for more information.

*The Bennachie Visitor Centre is maintained and managed by the Bennachie Centre Trust (SCIO)*

## INSCH CYCLING CLUB



Insch Cycling Club are a very sociable road cycling club and try to cater for all abilities of cyclist.

So, if you are training for your next ironman or just fancy a social spin to the café on your e-bike please get in touch ([Inschcc@gmail.com](mailto:Inschcc@gmail.com)).

The club organised a trip to the Sir Chris Hoy velodrome in Glasgow in January for a unique opportunity to experience track cycling. The club also organised weekly indoor group turbo training (Zwift virtual platform) over the winter for those keen to keep the fitness up.

The social side of our club remained active with a Christmas night out at the Insch Golf club and also a pub night at Brew dog in Inverurie in January.

Congratulations to 3 of our members who completed the Doddie Aid Cycle over 4 days in January covering 700 miles from Stranraer to Edinburgh. This of course supports My Name's Doddie Foundation's mission to find a cure for MND, well done Stuart, Rory and Tony.

The winter months have been relatively quiet for outdoor cycling given the wet and cold weather but we are all looking forward to the warmer spring days and longer nights to make the most of our beautiful quiet roads around Insch.

### Regular Ride Schedule – all depart from BLC Insch

Tuesday 1900 – Intermediate - 14-15mph, 20-25 Miles

Wednesday 1930 – Experienced – 15mph+, 25-30 Miles

Thursday 1900 – Beginners – Pace of slowest rider – 10ish Miles – commencing 17th April

Sunday 0745 & 0800 – Coffee & Cake Ride – 15mph & 16mph+ – 45-60 miles

Sunday 0900 – Easy Café Ride - Pace of slowest rider – 25-30 Miles.

Insch Audax – Saturday 6th September 2025

Once again, the club will be running the Inch Audax with options for the 200km "Insch by Inch" or the 100km "Half Inch" routes. This is run as an Audax UK event and entry is available through their website. Start and finish at the St Drostan's Church Hall in Inch.

BLC Bike Ride – date TBC

New this year in partnership with the Bennachie Leisure Centre we will be running a family friendly bike ride with a variety of routes and catering provided by the BLC. More details to follow.

TT Series

The 2025 evening series of TTs has again been organised. A total of 5 TTs will make up the series with a standard 10mile, longer 15mile and also the obligatory hill climb. This starts on the last wed in April and will run every month throughout the summer as a confined series (for club members only).



### External Events

The following cycling events are always well attended by ICC members and are great social occasions.

Mull Sportive – 1st June 2025

MSBH (aka Stonehaven Sportive / Beer Festival) – 14th June

Ride the North – 30th August

Social Events

Summer BBQ – Sat 7th June

Alpes Maritime – September trip to Nice

Autumn Weekend Away – 9th -12th Oct.

### Club Communications:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/InschCC>

The Club Website has a lot of useful info - <https://inschcyclingclub.wordpress.com/>

If you have any questions email [Inschcc@gmail.com](mailto:Inschcc@gmail.com)



The walled garden & grounds are open every day and the hall re-opens on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

### Hall & Tearoom opening hours

April & May - Fri - Sun, 10:30am - 4pm

June - Thursday - Monday, 10:30am - 4pm.

### Events

April - Season Open Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

18/19/20 - Easter Egg Trail

May - 17 - Garden Yoga

18 - Garden Tai Chi

24 - Plant Sale

June - 7 - Dog Show

21 - Leith Hall's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Party

22 - Tai Chi

More information about all of our events is available via Eventbrite and on the Leith Hall [Facebook](#) page - please follow us for all the latest news!

There is Forestry works being carried out in the next few months as per Leith Hall Forestry Plan 2025, please ask in the tearoom for information about the upcoming work around the pond.

## Friends of Insch Hospital and Community Update



At our Trustees Meeting on 3rd March, after another year of exhausting every possible avenue to encourage

Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) to reinstate healthcare services at Insch Hospital, we unanimously voted to explore a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This would allow us to secure ownership of the hospital building and grounds for the community.

We have now informally lodged an interest, and while the process could be lengthy, we are tentatively positive—for the first time in a long while, we see a glimmer of hope for the future of the site. Should we be successful, there will be a significant challenge ahead in terms of funding and planning, but we are determined to explore every possibility to bring the building back into use for the benefit of the community.

With that in mind, this year's Strawberry Fair on Sunday, 8th June could be more important than ever. Fundraising at the fair may well play a vital role in any future project, so we encourage everyone to come along, support local stalls, and enjoy a brilliant day out with family and friends.

We are thrilled to share that Friends of Insch Hospital has been awarded £9,828 from Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action's Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund! This funding will allow us to launch a dementia support group in Insch—something we know will make a real difference to those living with dementia and their loved ones. The group has now been scheduled for a Wednesday in the day room at Insch Hospital and will be called the Friends Wednesday Club. We are still putting provisions and staff in place but hope to launch very soon.

Meanwhile, our Insch Chapter of Cycling Without Age Scotland is launching, and you may have already seen our trainee pilots out and about on the trishaw. This fantastic initiative will offer local residents, particularly those with limited mobility, the chance to experience the joy of being outdoors in a whole new way.

Thank you, as always, for your support—we'll keep you updated as things progress.

Friends of Insch Hospital & Community



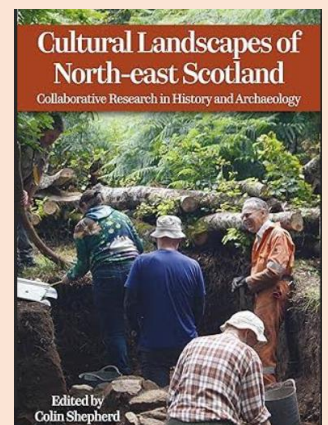
We have had a busy winter, planning and preparing for the year ahead and working on ongoing projects. The Paths project sees our consultant having completed a site visit and now developing a design for the path upgrade. The 2025 Pittodrie Dig dates have been set, the Wildlife team are pulling together their programme and the new website is progressing nicely. In addition, the Work Parties have begun, there was a major cutback of vegetation and work of the surrounding paths at West End at the Colony.



On the admin side of things, we have completed the task required by OSCR to collate members data in accordance with GDPR. A new mailing system has been implemented as we realised some emails were not reaching our membership.

During the member update, we received many offers to volunteer. To process this offer of help, we are looking for existing volunteers to step up to become leaders. If you think you could help, please let us know.

Our latest publication from the Bennachie Landscapes Project Group, 'The Cultural Landscapes of North East Scotland' is out now. The books are available locally from Booth Scotland, Inverurie or from our





website <https://www.bailiesofbennachie.co.uk/shop>

See our website for news, dates of 2025 events, to join as a volunteer and the shop to join us as a member

<https://www.bailiesofbennachie.co.uk>

Any queries may be directed to [info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](mailto:info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk)



*Wartle  
Community  
Association*

Wartle Hall, the village hall in Meikle Wartle, is located on the left-hand side of the road as you enter the village from the Drum Filling Station.

The main hall is 10m x 5m internally with audio visual equipment, including a screen for projections. There is a well equipped kitchen and bar area and a good sized external patio.

The hall is available for hire for private parties, meetings, events, etc. at a cost of £15/hr.

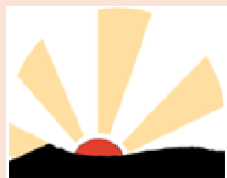
Enquiries can be made to [wcahallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:wcahallbookings@gmail.com)

Here is a list of upcoming events

3rd May 2025 Saturday 10am Coffee Morning & Plant Sale

21st Jun 2025 Saturday 3pm Mid-Summer Topsy Tea Party

## LOGIE DURNO VILLAGE HALL



The Hall are delighted to host a midsummer community fun day and family ceilidh on 21 June, tickets will be available on Eventbrite check the hall Facebook page for further information.

Annual quiz night 26th September.

The hall committee are keen to welcome anyone who would like to become a friend of the hall and help support fundraising and community events.



## Looking forward to sunny days at The Studio.

At the time of writing, it's nearing the end of March and this week we've finally been able to have the studio door open and welcome in the bright sunshine as well as our lovely customers.

Monday to Friday (and some Saturdays) you'll find us at The Studio busying away. Hayley's sewing machines whirring and me sat with my paints out, both of us enjoying creating lovely gifts.

If you haven't popped in to have a look yet, please do! We are very friendly, and are happy for folk to pop in to just have a look and a chat.



Everything in The Studio is made by ourselves, so for those of you who don't know us, here's a mini introduction.

Hayley is a whizz on the sewing machine. She works with beautiful tweeds, felts and velvets to create all sorts of quality gifts including cushions, notebooks, hip flasks, bookmarks, flower ornaments and of course her very popular key fobs. Any of these items can be personalised and you can choose any tweed colour combinations you like!

I'm Becky and I run my illustration business from the studio. I take on commissions (I love a project!) and produce prints of my artwork. Online I mainly sell personalised family trees and in the studio you'll find these along with my fine china mugs, notebooks, ornaments, decorations and of course greetings cards.

We have something for everyone and all designed/made here in Insch!

We post regular updates on Facebook and Instagram (The Studio - Insch) along with details of creative workshops. We also have a mailing list, if you'd like to join it, drop us a message.

See you soon, Becky & Hayley X

## INSCH GOLF CLUB



As we get into the start of the season, we have our fingers crossed for better weather. We ended the winter months on a high with the infamous Tea Party, so much neon! We have various memberships from the differing playing categories to associate and always happy to hear from anyone interested. So give us a shout and ask as many questions as you want.

We have a few events coming up that may be of interest including our Mother's Day Lunches and Dinners. Our menu can be seen on Facebook or sent by email on request.

We are holding a Quiz Night on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> April with Alan and Susan Donald, can be testing but always lots of fun.

On the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 12pm we have our Coffee morning, why not come along and try Sylvia and Gemmas homemade pancakes and scones. Only £4 per adult and £2.50 per child.

For the first time we are hosting Easter Afternoon Teas on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April, from 12pm to 3pm, with a lovely home baked menu and treats for the kids, only £17.50 per adult and £7.50 per child, bookings are now being taken for this.

We will be present at the Strawberry Fair, which is a fantastic day for the community raising well deserved funds for the Friends of Insch Hospital.

Also, for the first time since we got permission during covid we are taking it outside again! Picnic tables, BBQ and Bucking Bronco with music inside later in the day. There will be more information on this nearer the time and a date for tickets going on sale, so watch out for our posts.

We are a private members club, and don't hold a public licence which is part of our charm. In the golfing industry we are known as the friendly wee club, because of our staff and members alike with visiting parties returning year on year.

So, why not become a member? Why not give us a call on 01464 820363 or email us at administrator@inschgolfclub to find out more about us and become part of our family. We hope you all have a wonderful summer and we get the opportunity to meet new friends



Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy  
The Lord-Lieutenant's Update



## Honours and Awards – The King's Award for Voluntary Service

I was delighted to present The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) to two very worthy Aberdeenshire organisations; The Bailies of Bennachie and The Buchan Battalion Boy Brigade. The KAVS is an honour equivalent to the MBE for voluntary services.

The Bailies care about Bennachie, its natural



environment, history and culture, protecting Bennachie's unique landscape for future generations. The Bailies of Bennachie





was founded in 1973. From a mere 40 enthusiasts initially, there are now over 5000 members.



The Buchan Battalion Boys Brigade was created in 1970 to serve the companies of the North-East of Scotland, it was formed from the old Fraserburgh and Peterhead districts.

### **British Empire Medal presentation to Susie Hunt**

I had the great pleasure of presenting Susie Hunt from Kemnay with her British Empire Medal for a lifetime of service to the arts and crafts. In 2003, Susie founded what is now the largest geographical Open Studio event in the country, North-East Open Studios (NEOS). NEOS promotes arts and crafts in the North-East of Scotland. The Open Studio event is held annually in September. Over nine days, artists and



makers open their studio doors and welcome visitors into their creative spaces, showcasing a diverse range of artworks from painting and ceramics to jewellery, glass, textiles, wood, sculpture and more. Look out for the yellow signs along the Aberdeenshire countryside in September. Every venue is well worth a visit.

### **Wedding Anniversaries and Birthday celebrations**

One of the Lieutenancy's roles continues to be to ensure that messages of congratulations are delivered from Their Majesties, The King and Queen to those celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> or 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries and 100<sup>th</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> Birthdays. Myself, or one of his Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of such special milestones and present a card and personal congratulations. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website. <https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/> or contact us on [info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk](mailto:info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk)



You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – 'Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire'

Very best wishes to you all

Dr Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire

## **LOCAL GROUPS IN THE AREA**

DAY	WHEN	WHERE
<b>MONDAY</b>		
Community Café See St Drostan's Facebook page	11.30am to 1.30pm	St Drostan's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Inch, AB52 6JB
Craft Classes - beading, embroidery etc	11am to 2pm	Insch Institute, Rannes Street. Ann 07742 330717
Tai Chi and Qi Gong- Intermediate 12-1, Beginners 1-2pm	12-1pm and 1-2pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Group	14:30 to 15:30pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Satori Martial Arts – All ages	From 6:30pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Insch Tennis Club (see Insch Tennis Club Facebook page)	3 – 5pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Margot Cairns Pilates See Facebook page for details	6 -7pm and 7.15 – 8.15pm	Premnay Village Hall, Auchleven
Jog Scotland Insch Beginners and Intermediates-See Facebook page	6.30pm Beginners 7.30pm Intermediate	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT



Outdoor Bowling- April – September Starting 14 <sup>th</sup> April	6.50 for 7pm	Insch Bowling Club, Rannes Street Insch behind the Library, AB52 6JJ
Jazzercise	7pm	Oyne Village Hall, Onye
Bible Study Group 7pm to 8pm except holidays	7pm to 8pm	Small Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR
Bennachie Community Council Meetings The Fourth Monday in the month except for July and December	7pm – 9pm	St Drostan’s Church, Commerce Street, AB52 6JB
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
Painting for Leisure	10.30am to 12.30	The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch, AB52 6JJ contact Jill on 01464 820199
Insch Library	3pm to 5pm	Insch Library, The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch, AB52 6JJ
The Fun and Friendship Group Meets fortnightly every Second Tuesday	2pm to 4pm	Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR
Whist Group	2 – 3.30pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Insch Trail Running Club	7pm	See Insch Trail Running Facebook page
Box N Fit	7pm	Insch Institute, Rannes Street, Insch, AB52 6JJ
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
Sole mates Walking Group	10:00 – 11:00	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Zumba	10am	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Walking Rugby 18yrs to 80yrs	11:00 – 12:00	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Margot Cairns Pilates See Facebook page for details	9.15 -10.15am, 10.30- 11.30am and 11.45 to 12;45	Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR
Insch Community Choir	6.30 for 7pm	St Drostan’s Church Hall, Insch, Commerce Street,
Junior Golf (spring and autumn)	6 to 7pm	Insch Golf Club, Golf Terrace, Insch, AB52 6JY
Jazzercise	7pm	Oyne Village Hall, Onye
Scottish Women’s Institute Largie- every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month	7.30 pm	St Drostan’s Church Hall, Insch, Commerce Street, AB52 6JB
Scottish Women’s Institute Premnay - every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month	7.30 pm	Premnay Village Hall, Premnay
Every few weeks see Craft Nights Logie Durno Facebook page for timings	6 pm to 9pm	Logie Durno Village Hall, AB51 5EB
<b>THURSDAY</b>		
Zumba	11am	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Brenda Gordon School of Dance	Thursday afternoon see Facebook page	Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR
Insch, Leslie & District Men’s Shed Every Second Thursday	1pm – 4.30pm	Old School, Leslie
Indoor Short mat Bowling- 2 <sup>nd</sup> October to March	6.50 for 7pm	Insch Bowling Club, Rannes Street Insch behind the Library, AB52 6JJ
Adult Beginners Tennis	6 to 7pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Yarn n Yarn. Knitting and Crochet group. Second and Fourth Thursday of the month	7.30pm to 9pm	St Drostan’s, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Insch, AB52 6JB
Scottish Country Dancing - new members and beginners welcome. Starts 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8pm to 9.30pm	Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR contact Margaret 01464 821384 or Pam 01464 821304
Adults Netball	8 – 9 pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Aikido Ten Shin Kan	7 to 9pm	Premnay Village Hall, Auchleven
Jog Scotland Insch -See Facebook page	6pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Box N Fit	7pm	Insch Institute, Rannes Street, Insch, AB52 6JJ
Yoga	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Oyne Village Hall, Onye
<b>FRIDAY</b>		
Flex and Stretch	11am	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT

Tai Chi and Qi Gong- Intermediate 12-1, Beginners 1-2pm	12-1pm and 1-2pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Insch Library	2pm to 5pm	Insch Library, The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch,
Bookworms- Insch Library Book Group monthly on a Friday	4.30pm	Insch Library, The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch, AB52 6JJ
Scottish Dance Last Friday in the month	2pm to 4pm	Insch Parish Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR
Tea Dance every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday in the month	2pm to 4pm	Insch Parish Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR
Outdoor Bowling- April – September	6.50 for 7pm	Insch Bowling Club, Rannes Street Insch behind the Library, AB52 6JJ
Bingo every second week starting 17 <sup>th</sup> January for members	8pm	Insch Golf Club, Golf Terrace, Insch
<b>SATURDAY</b>		
Men's Breakfast Club	From 8.30am to 9.30/10am	Alternates monthly between Insch Parish Church and St Drostan's Episcopal Church Insch
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
St Drostan's Episcopal Church	Service starts at 10 am see Facebook page for other services	St Drostan's Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Insch
Insch, Leslie, Premnay, Oyne Parish Presbyterian Church	Service starts at 10.30 am see Facebook page for other services	Insch Parish Church, Western Road, Insch, AB52 6JR
Insch Cycling Club	Tuesdays, Wednesday, Thursday and Sundays	See Insch Cycling Club Facebook page
Insch Walking Group, Members of Grampian 50+ Network	Meet every Alternative Sunday at 9.30am	walk 5-6 miles within 30 miles of Insch, contact Morris on 07824 618369.
Insch Connection Museum	May to October 29 <sup>th</sup> 2 – 4 pm	Railway Station, North Road, Insch
Insch Ceilidh Club – See Facebook page for dates. Last full week of the month on Sunday	Family Club 2pm	Insch Parish Church Hall, Western Road, Insch, AB52 6JR

#### Contacts details for children's groups

Bennachie Leisure Centre, [Bennachie Leisure Centre \(blcinsch.scot\)](http://www.blcinsch.scot) ; Guiding – [Bennachiedc@gmail.com](mailto:Bennachiedc@gmail.com)

Scouting -[insch@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk](mailto:insch@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk) or [pitcaple@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk](mailto:pitcaple@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk)

Insch District Football club also have a Facebook page.

There is a Kennethmont Toddlers Group, Chapel Toddlers Group (0 to 5 years) and Inschy Winchy Spiders Baby Group up to 2yr olds – Contact details can be found on their Facebook pages. Old Rayne has a 2's Group on Tuesday and Wednesday's. Tiny talk Aberdeenshire Rural is on a Friday morning in Insch which teaches BSL. Abricabeats and Playthema at The Bennachie Leisure Centre. See all of their Facebook pages for more details.

Running Groups – Jog Scotland meet on Monday (6.30 and 7.30pm) and Thursdays 6pm at Bennachie Leisure Centre. See Jog Scotland Insch [Facebook](#) Page

For information about Insch Trail Running Club see their website [Committee & Membership – INSCH TRAIL RUNNING CLUB](#)

Insch Leslie and District Mens Shed – Meeting every second Thursday at the Old School in Leslie. See their Facebook page for more details. [Insch, Leslie District Mens Shed | Facebook](#)

Insch Men's Breakfast Club - Meet from 8.30am to 9.30/10am on the first Saturday of the month for a chat, fellowship and food. We meet and alternate between Parish Church Hall and the Episcopal Church in Insch. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2318970508286732/?ref=share> for more details.