

BENNACHIE COMMUNITY NEWS

This newsletter promotes the Bennachie Area and the activities happening within it. You can get printed copies from: - Bennachie Leisure Centre, Inch; The Old Post Office and Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch; Morgan McVeighs, Colpy; Kellockbank, Smile at Oyne, Logie Durno Hall, Poppy's Old Rayne and Inch Library

You can contact us on bennachiecommunitynews@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

| APRIL | What | Where |
|--|--|---|
| Friday 3 rd – 5 th April | Easter Egg Hunt at Leith Hall | Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ |
| Friday 10 th April | Bookbug 1.00 to 1.30pm | Insch Library, Rannes Street, Inch |
| Saturday 11 th April | Hill Skills Workshop 10am – 7pm Pop up Café 11am – 3pm | Bennachie Visitor Centre, Pitcaple, AB51 5HY |
| Friday 24 th April | Quiz Night (BYOB) - 7.30pm, only £2.50 p/p | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay, |
| Friday 24 th 7pm April | Bingo Friday | Wartle Village Hall, Meikle Wartle |
| Sat 25 th & Sunday 26 th April 10am – 5pm | Mountain Skills Course – Bennachie | Bennachie Visitor Centre, Pitcaple, AB51 5HY |
| MAY | What | Where |
| Fri 8 th & Sat 9 th May | Pop-Up Bar, 7pm - 12pm, Darts/Pool/Games | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay |
| Friday 8 th May | Pop up Pub 5pm Bay fish and chips 7pm pub | Chaple of Garioch Village Hall |
| Saturday 9 th May | Plant Sale and Coffee Morning | Wartle Village Hall, Meikle Wartle |
| Saturday 9 th May | Soup and Sweet 11am – 2pm | St Lawrence Hall, Old Rayne |
| Saturday 9 th May | Coffee Morning, 10am - 12noon, Home Bakes | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay |
| Saturday 9 th May | Pop up Café 11am – 3pm | Bennachie Visitor Centre, Pitcaple |
| Sunday 17 th May | Family Fun Dog Show 10am – 4pm | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Inch |
| Sat. 23 rd May | Pop up Pub night 6pm to Midnight | St Lawrence Hall, Old Rayne |
| Friday 29 th May | Quiz Night (BYOB) - 7.30pm, only £2.50 p/p | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay |
| Saturday 30 th May | Plant Sale 10am – 12noon | Chapel of Garioch Village Hall |
| JUNE | What | Where |
| Sunday 7 th June | STRAWBERRY FAYRE | Insch Hospital Grounds, Rannes Street, Inch |
| Saturday 13 th June | Summer Fayre: Craft & Plant Sale, 10am - 12noon Plus usual Coffee Morning Treats | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay |
| Saturday 13 th June | Pop up Café 11am – 3pm | Bennachie Visitor Centre, Pitcaple |
| Fri 19 th & Sat 20 th June | Pop-up Bar, 7pm - Late - See FB Page for Updates | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay |
| Saturday 20 th June | Garden Yoga at Leith Hall 10:00 am | Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ |
| Wednesday 24 th June | Wartle Community Association AGM | Wartle Village Hall, Meikle Wartle |
| Friday 26 th June | Quiz Night (BYOB) - 7.30pm, only £2.50 p/p | Premnay Village Hall, Premnay |
| Sat. 28 th June | Pop Up Pub. 6.00pm - Midnight | St Lawrence Hall, Old Rayne |



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. Part of our role involves being a statutory consultee for planning applications within our area. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month and our next meeting is on April 27th. We are still looking for new members from the following areas- Inch (2), Oyne (1), Meikle Wartle / Durno (1) and Premnay (2) and Culsalmond and Colpy (1). If you want to help your community, please let us know at bennachieCC@outlook.com

So, who are we: - Chairperson: Sheena Lonchay (Inch) 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), Janette Taylor, Gordon Hood and Rab Riggs (Inch)

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 or see our [Facebook](#) page or website [Home | Bennachie Community Council | Aberdeenshire](#)

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 and Foudland Hill Windfarm and Battery Energy Storage.

5. We have also just started up a paths/green space group.

Healthcare

Insch Hospital Project

The BCC continues to support the retention of Insch War Memorial Hospital as an NHS Facility and the adequate provision of community hospital in-patient beds for residents of BCC area. It is now six years since Insch Hospital was "temporarily" closed in 2020 during Covid. The current position with the hospital closed is worst of 10 options which were ranked by the Strategic Needs Assessment of Insch Hospital after Covid. To date there has been no progress on any of the actions from the 2022 Integration Joint Board (IJB) which reviewed the Strategic Needs Assessment. In July 2025 the IJB set up the Insch Hospital Project to review whether the Insch War Memorial Hospital could be declared surplus. Unfortunately the first meeting was not organised by Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) until December, five months after the IJB meeting. One further meeting has been held but Terms of Reference for the review have still not been agreed. AHSCP appear unwilling to discuss harm done to patients by the lack of community hospital beds since Insch Memorial Hospital was closed in 2020 and also unwilling to discuss the overall community hospital capacity in the region, although the number of in-patient beds in community hospitals in NHS(Grampian) region fell by nearly a quarter in ten years. We have written to AHSCP asking for the next meeting to be organised as soon as possible and for the minutes from the last meeting which have not yet been issued.

Scottish Government Commitment

In April 2021 then First Minister Nicola Sturgeon visited Insch and said that not reopening the Insch War Memorial Hospital would be unacceptable. The SNP manifesto for the last Scottish Government election included a commitment to provide £10billion to renew and upgrade community hospitals. While she noted that the health board is the decision-maker here, Nicola Sturgeon specifically named Insch as an example of how this funding would be allocated. Despite those commitments Insch War Memorial Hospital is still closed.

BCC has written to the current First Minister to confirm his commitment to reopening and funding Insch War

Memorial Hospital during the term of the next parliament.

Inverurie Medical Practice

Planning consent for a new housing estate at Crichton west of Port Elphinstone was granted despite concerns raised about pressure on local doctors.

There is also a consultation regarding Will Chemist opening a pharmacy at Port Elphinstone. How to take part:

Visit <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/.../detailed-poster---port...> to read more or complete the survey directly here: <https://rebrand.ly/xs4z0z6>

Prefer information by post:

Email gram.involve@nhs.scot or call 01224 558098 and the Public Involvement Team will send details to you.

The consultation runs until Thursday 2 July 2026.

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](#). Now that we have finished the local place plan we are starting to look at some of the other projects we still have outstanding.

Community Action Plan Progress Report

Greens Spaces

Form path and green space group ✓ Resources will be shifted to this group this year.

Support Community Allotments- Shevock burn CIC [Facebook](#) ✓

Look at forming more paths especially to link up villages – Work ongoing

Look at green spaces with view to optimise use and diversifying habitats – Still to progress

Getting About

Promote transport in area i.e. community buses, THiNC, Royal Voluntary Service -These have all been promoted on our Facebook page and in the newsletter. ✓

Connect with Huntly Community Bus or alternatives regarding a community transport – still to progress

Road Safety

20mph speed limit rolled out on 22nd September 2025 ✓

Round table discussion with various partners i.e. road safety team, school, Roads department regarding concerns around road safety and develop system on how we feedback near misses and concerns – Still to progress.

Disabled Access at Railway station – Continue to lobby Network Rail and some suggestions in Local Place Plan regarding development around station.

Facilities

Explore development trust for area – Meetings were held and at this point in time as there was no revenue being generated it was felt there was not enough resources to take this forward. Strengthening the communication between existing groups was felt to be the best option at this time. ✓

Community Mapping – This was done as part of the meetings for the development trust. ✓

Christmas lights and events – lights and Christmas shopping night in Inch established. ✓

Still to do

Explore late night café opening hours.

Increase opening hours of library to include Saturday morning so that working parents can attend.

Look at all weather pitches with possible partnership working.

Future Planning

The local place plan has now been accepted by Aberdeenshire Council and registered [Local Place Plans register - Aberdeenshire Council](#) ✓

Resilience

Phase 1 – Chapel of Garioch Hall up and operational ✓

Phase 2 – Premnay and BLC looking at being a resilience hub. Information given to other halls in area – ongoing work.

Share information regarding snow warden scheme ✓

Have another consultation around digital connectivity
[Digital Connectivity - Aberdeenshire Council](#) – still to do

Young Voices

Playpark surveys for equipment and improvements carried out ✓

Still to do –

Youth clubs and recreation areas for young people and involve young people more.

Health and Wellbeing

Local bodies to continue with the interested parties to restore and improve healthcare in area – ongoing

Work with Bennachie Leisure Centre to see how AHSCP can link in with this - ongoing

TRANSPORT

A96 - no progress, no plans

All options for the A96 Dualling came through the Bennachie Community Council (BCC) area. In the consultation which followed the Cabinet Secretary's Statement to the Scottish Parliament in November 2024 BCC strongly supported the A96 Corridor Review Revised Package of Interventions. After the Cabinet Secretary's statement and the subsequent consultation BCC wrote to local MSPs in February 2025 and asked them to make sure that Bennachie Community Council's views are heard in the Scottish Parliament and in any discussions with ministers.

A decision on the plans for the A96 between Elgin and Inverurie has been outstanding since then. A statement from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport referring to the A96 Dualling was posted on the Transport Scotland Website dated February 3rd 2026 which:

- reiterates the Scottish Government commitment to fully dualling the A96
- advises that the already agreed work on the western end of the dualling will be delayed, commencing in 2028/29 and 2029
- next steps including an Elgin bypass will follow after that.

However the statement does not indicate:

- when work on dualling the western end of the A96 will be completed
- whether or not the Scottish Government intends to undertake the Corridor Review Refined Package of Interventions.
- when any work between Elgin and Inverurie may be undertaken.

BCC has written to the Cabinet Secretary asking her to confirm before the imminent Scottish Government elections:

1. whether the Scottish Government intends to implement the A96 Corridor Review Revised Package of Interventions?
2. what works will be undertaken between Elgin and Inverurie in the next two years? In particular we are concerned about safety improvements for example at the Colpy Junction where two fatal accidents have occurred in recent years and note that a fatality recently occurred on the A96 at Huntly on March 8th.

BCC has also written again to local MSP's asking them to make the same request of the Cabinet Secretary and we have also written to our local MP (who we met in November near Old Rayne to discuss lack of progression on the A96) asking her to use her position to establish the Scottish Government intent for the dualling of the A96 between Elgin and Inverurie."

RESILIENCE

2026 arrived with a bang resilience wise. The snow at the start of the year was something that we haven't seen in this area since 2010. Due to the amount of snow and drifting the primary and secondary routes which connect towns were ploughed but soon filled in with snow meaning they needed to be ploughed again. This left little time for other routes to be ploughed. Some rural roads were closed with up to a metre of drifting snow. On the 6th January the Council declared a major incident which allowed them to get extra help and when the snow blowers came into the area on the 8th January roads started to get cleared. This did not include roads within villages which were still hard to drive on a week later. During that time food deliveries

were limited and some people struggled to get medical attention. Volunteer groups such as COTAG and farmers stepped up to help. Some farmers were contracted by the council to clear roads whilst others who had to carry out their day job also went out of their way, at their cost, to help. Our thanks go out to all of the volunteers during this time however as a community we need to become more resilient.

We are looking at setting up a volunteer group for Insch to help out during times of adverse weather. This could be anything from contacting people to make sure they are ok to clearing snow or handing out sandbags. If you are interested please contact BennachieCC@outlook.com

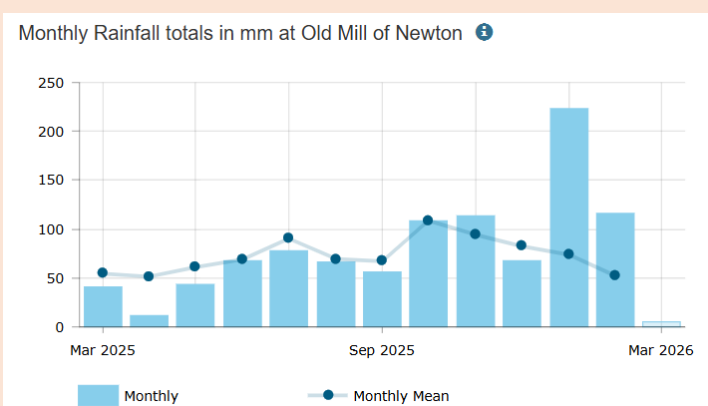
When there is a weather/flood/fire/drought warning we share all the information about this on the **Bennachie Community Council** [Facebook](#) Page.

This page will be where we update information about anything happening during a storm warning/ power cut/ drought event.

After the snow, came the rain, and we opened the sandbag container in Insch twice for people to collect sandbags. Sandbags along with Grit bins are something that the Council have cut back due to lack of money.

We have let Aberdeenshire Council know our feedback regarding what worked and what needs to be worked on during the snow/rain event at the start of the year and are waiting to hear back from them.

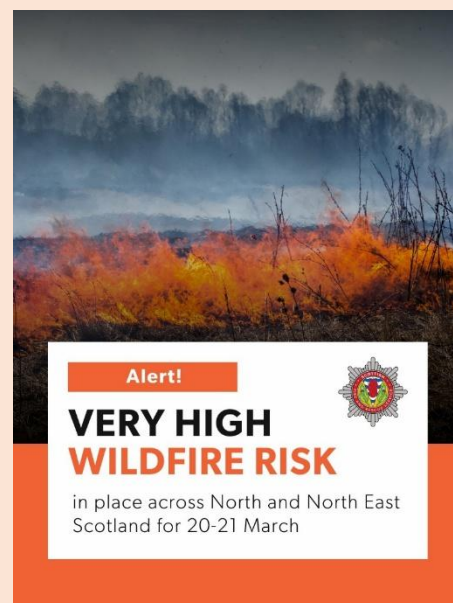
[Scottish Flood Forum](#) is a great website for information about flooding and how to protect your home. [Flood Re - A flood re-insurance scheme](#) gives information about insurance and flooding.



SEPA monthly rainfall data for Mill of Newton outside Insch showing high rainfall in January + February but very little in March

As we come into the summer months water scarcity and wildfires will be looked at. Please do not have campfires or BBQ's in the countryside. and dispose of glass correctly. The huge amount of rain which fell at the start of the year has increased

groundwater levels but March has been a dry month. See [Winter water situation report 2026 | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#) It is predicted that we will have longer spells of drier weather in the summer and more periods of extreme weather in the winter.



MAJOR PROJECTS IN AREA

Any energy project greater than 50MW is decided by Scottish Ministers and administered by the Energy Consent unit (www.energyconsents.scot). There are 3 projects which impact on our area and these listed here along with links to the relevant documents.

Foudland Hill wind farm comprising nine turbines, each with a tip height of up to 200m and a capacity of 7.2MW, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of up to 20MW, giving the development a total capacity of 84.8MW.

[Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#)

500MW battery energy storage system (BESS) including associated infrastructure including solar PV panels, access roads, sub-station, supporting equipment, fencing, drainage infrastructure and landscaping at Land Northeast of Rothienorman, at Land at Middleton of Blackford, AB51 8YN

[Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#)

Correen Hills Wind Farm (Generating station of >100 <200 MW Capacity)

[Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#)

The **BESS at Fairfield Meikle Wartle** was refused see [APP/2025/1015 | Installation of Battery Energy Storage System \(BESS\) with an Installed Capacity of 49.9MW and Associated Infrastructure | Land At Fairfield Inverurie AB51 5BL](#)

Scottish Election Hustings with Local Candidates

The BCC has invited all candidates for our constituency in the imminent Scottish Government elections to participate in a husting in Bennachie Leisure Centre on **Saturday 18th April, between 11am and 1pm**. This will give BCC residents the opportunity to quiz candidates about their parties' policies. More details including how to submit questions in advance will be publicised nearer to the date.



The Friends of Insch Hospital have an exciting few months ahead and we're pleased to share some of our latest news with the community.

Hospital Closure

We have, on 19th March, written to the Scottish First Minister to raise serious concerns regarding the ongoing closure of in-patient beds and services at Insch War Memorial Hospital, and the proposal to declare the building surplus to requirements.

The letter highlights concerns around a lack of due process, limited community engagement, and the impact on patient care and local services in a rural area. It also calls for a pause on any plans for disposal until a full and transparent assessment of the service changes is carried out.

The full letter will be available on our website and social media channels in due course.

Strawberry Fair

Save the date! Our ever-popular Strawberry Fair will take place on Sunday 7th June – one of the highlights of the local calendar. Planning is well underway, and this year we're introducing a brand-new **Local Flavours Market**, showcasing a range of local food producers to bring even more variety and flavour to the day.

We'd love your support in making the event another success. Whether you can spare sometime to volunteer, donate a raffle prize, or get involved on the day, every contribution makes a real difference. Follow us on Facebook to get involved, or contact

info@friendsofinschhospital.org

Tea Dance

Our regular Tea Dances in Insch Church Hall (Western Road), are held on the third Friday of every month. These friendly, social afternoons are always well attended and open to all.

Upcoming dates are 17th April, 15th May and 19th June – we'd love to see some new faces along with our regular attendees.

Friends Wednesday Club

Our Wednesday Club continues to go from strength to strength. The club meets weekly in the hospital Day Room and is aimed at those with early to mid-stage dementia. Members can attend with or without a family member and enjoy a relaxed, welcoming environment

focused on social activities, trying new things, building friendships, and most importantly – having fun. The sessions are run by a fantastic team of staff and volunteers, with the emphasis always on enjoyment and inclusion.



A local highland dancer who entertained members of the Wednesday Club for Burns Day

For more information, please email info@friendsofinschhospital.org or call 07476 259932.

Finally, our AGM will be held on Saturday 25th April at 10am in Insch Church Hall, Western Road. While there is no formal public presentation planned, everyone is very welcome to attend.



BENNACHIE LEISURE CENTRE

Bennachie Leisure Centre is a charity and receives no regular Council support. It is entirely reliant on income from classes, events, the cafe and its charity shop, Twice as Nice. We have a team of fundraisers who organise events and seek grant funding and we are indebted to them for their tireless efforts. However, the building is now over 25 years old and there is much that the Trustees and staff wish to do to secure the future of BLC. A GoFundMe Campaign has been launched to invite our supporters to contribute to our plans to:

- Improve football training facilities
- Update the kitchen and cafe
- Implement a programme of maintenance
- Adapt facilities to better accommodate local events and activities
- Work towards Net Zero to reduce running costs

To find out more and to see how you can help contact <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bennachie-leisure-centre-2026>

During the Easter holidays, our new bouncy castle will be available for stay and play sessions. There will also be games sessions offering a range of activities. See our website www.blcinsch.scot, call 01464 821246 or look at our [Facebook](#) page for details

Come along to BLC's annual Family Fun Dog Show on 17 May - admire the dogs and enter your pooch. There will be stalls (free pitches available, donations welcome), an outdoor BBQ and the cafe will be open. For children of all ages, come and try our new, supersize bouncy castle as well as our regular one.

See you there

Opening Hours

LEITH HALL GARDEN & ESTATE

Leith Hall & Henrietta's Tearoom Opening 2026

April & May

Friday - Sunday, 10:30 - 15:30

June - September

Thursday - Sunday, 10:30 - 15:30

This season we will be trialling hybrid guiding!

Initially this will consist of two tours a day, at 10:30 & 2:30, and open guiding (free flow) between 11am and 2pm. We look forward to hearing your feedback.

Check out our Facebook and Eventbrite pages for up-to-date information and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/LeithHallGardensEstate>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/leith-hall-garden-amp-estate-33806233645>

A colorful poster for "Easter Egg Trails" at Leith Hall. The text includes "EASTER EGG Trails", "Hop on over for our EASTER Egg hunt at Leith Hall", "Join us on 3rd - 5th of April for some egg-citing fun!", and "10:30 - 3:30, £5 per child". There is a QR code and the National Trust for Scotland logo. The bottom of the poster features a green grassy field with three colorful Easter eggs (blue, yellow, and red).

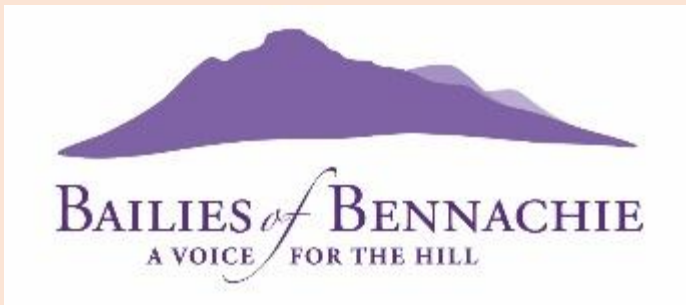
EASTER EGG Trails

NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

Hop on over for our
EASTER
Egg hunt
at Leith Hall

Join us on
3rd - 5th of April
for some egg-citing fun!

10:30 - 3:30, £5 per child



The **Bailies of Bennachie** are pleased to report on some of our news from groups and events as follows:

Our **Annual General Meeting** was held on 19th March. There were reports from our Trustees on all things Bennachie and Bailies specific topics. This year we welcomed our special guest speaker from Aberdeen Mountain Rescue. Members received an invitation to the AGM. If you would like to join, membership is £25 for life, with signup available from our website <https://bailiesofbennachie.co.uk/membership>

The **Wildlife / Environment groups** are working on their 2026 programme. To be confirmed but early discussions suggest events on bird song, wildflowers and a talk on pine marten and wildcats. At a recent event there was great excitement viewing footage from their trail camera project. Species filmed include roe and red deer, bats, mountain hare, red squirrel and a variety of voles to name a few.

Work Parties recommenced at the beginning of March with very successful work carried out on the Maiden Causeway towards Craigshannoch. Join our merry band in this satisfying and worthwhile work. Find out more from our website or by email, see below.

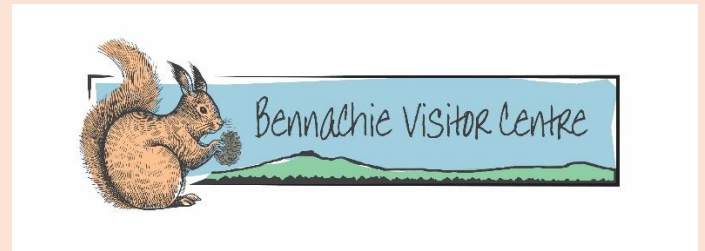
Look out for new products being added to our **website shop** including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, mugs, hats etc.



Our **Help Your Hill** campaign is ongoing; donations can be made via our website or by sending a cheque. The total raised so far for this project is more than **£22,000** with Gift Aid still to be claimed.

Members may sign up to join any of our groups as volunteers, see 'volunteering' on the website. Any queries may be directed to us by emailing info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

Address (post only) Bailies of Bennachie, c/o Garioch Heritage Centre, Loco Works Road, Inverurie AB51 4FY



Welcome back to the Bennachie Visitor Centre

Our 2026 season starts just in time for the start of British Summer Time on Saturday 28th March. The Centre will be open from 10am to 4.30pm through until 25th October.

There's lots to see and do and admission is free. Call in for coffee or join an event and you'll be supporting the Bennachie Centre Trust, the registered charity responsible for the management and maintenance of the Visitor Centre and its public toilets.

To keep up to date with what's on follow us on Facebook or visit the website <https://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk/>

You can call us on 01467 681470 or email: bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you soon !

Events at the Bennachie Visitor Centre

Booking may be essential – so don't delay – book today!

Saturday 11th April 10am – 7pm

Hill Skills Workshop – Bennachie

Designed to build your confidence and keep you safe in the hills, our hill skills workshops are ideal for beginners or for those needing to refresh and keep updated with the latest techniques.

For further information and booking visit www.hillgoers.com

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 10am – 5pm

Mountain Skills Course – Bennachie

Looking to develop your skills and knowledge into the mountains?

Join us on a 2-day Mountain Training Scotland accredited course to give you the perfect toolkit to plan, navigate and explore our mountains safely and with confidence.

For further information and booking visit www.hillgoers.com



Join Jo for her monthly Pop Up Bake Stall or enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake or homemade scone every day at the Bennachie Visitor Centreall handmade and very yummy 😊

Looking to visit Bennachie with a group or organisation or perhaps you're planning a special occasion?

Did you know we have our Community Room available for hire during our opening hours or why not pre-order your refreshments including scones, cake or picnic boxes. Simply contact the Bennachie Visitor Centre for more information and to discuss your requirements .

INSCH LIBRARY NEWS

Opening Times and Contact Information:

Tuesday 3pm – 5pm, Friday 2pm – 5pm

E - insch.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

T - 01464 635190

W - www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/

Greetings from Insch Library

Hi, I'm Mel and I can be found at Insch Library most Tuesdays. I'm feeling very settled in my role here and it's been wonderful getting to know our customers. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to stop for a chat, share a book recommendation, or simply pop in to say hello — your warmth makes being here a joy! We're also delighted to have Grace with us. She'll be a familiar face on Fridays, and she's already enjoying meeting many of you.

What's Happening at Insch Library



Holiday Craft Activities - We'll be running some fun activities during the school holidays, offering a relaxed space for children to make, explore, and

have fun. Come and join us in the library for a story and craft session. Listen to a Spring themed story together then make a beautiful Easter bird decoration to take home. **31 Mar 2026 - 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

This event is suitable for ages 5-12 years. Children aged 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Please book one space per child. See

[Spring Into Easter 2026 Story and Craft - Insch Library | Live Life Aberdeenshire](#)



Bookbug Sessions - Bookbug has returned to the library, and our sessions are proving to be a favourite with families. These fun, free, and friendly sessions of

songs, rhymes and a story are perfect for babies,

toddlers, and their grown ups. Sessions are fortnightly on term time Fridays from 1pm – 1.30pm. Our next one is on the **10th April 2026 1pm to 1.30pm**

Take a break from your chocolate eggs and come join us for our fun and friendly session of songs, rhymes and a story for you and your little ones (aged 0-5 years). Please book one space per family. Walk-ins welcome if space is available. See

[Insch Library Easter Special Bookbug Session | Live Life Aberdeenshire](#)

Coming soon

Self-Issue Machine – Insch Library can be a very busy place! Soon you can skip the queue, using our self-issue machine. Not confident with tech? Don't worry, it's very user friendly and I will demo as many times as you need.

It's almost time for Summer Reading Challenge 2026, a fun activity for everyone who loves to read! Running from 2nd June until 30th August, the challenge is for children, young adults, families, adults, friends and groups. Sign up at the library or online.

Last year we have managed to acquire the former ladies waiting room in the Railway Station and doubled our exhibition space!

The beautiful new space has been used as a kilt makers' atelier and a police office, and it lay empty for more than five years. Eventually in 2025, we have managed to gain the licence to use the room as an extension to the existing museum. Facing the platform, it boasts the beautiful original fireplace, a wee kitchenette, a much-needed additional storeroom.



We decided to make part of our past record-breaking exhibition 'The Castle of Dunnydure' permanent and have transformed the ladies' waiting room into a beautiful exhibition space, and an events space.

Come and see our working train model, our maps, numerous exhibits, our archive, scrap books and photos.

In 2026 the museum is open from the 1st of April until the 28th of October, every Wednesday and Sunday between 2 and 4pm.

Bookings for other days welcomed. Please get in touch to arrange. The best way to contact us is via email or via our socials.

Admission free but donations appreciated.

The museum is situated in the Insch Railway Station. We have barrier free access via the platform and through the waiting room.

Insch Connection Museum , Railway Station
North Road, Insch, AB52 6XP

www.inschmuseum.org.uk

E-mail: insch.museum@gmail.com

Facebook: [Insch Connection Museum](#)

LinkedIn: Insch Connection Museum



Seed banks are now in Libraries including Insch Library. This is where you can pop in and pick up free vegetable seeds or seed potatoes to start growing at home. This is a one seed forward initiative funded by AVA and delivered in collaboration with Greener Huntly.

So, whether you are a regular customer or haven't stepped foot inside the place for years, please do pop in, we're always delighted to welcome you. Hope to see you soon.

We are showing new exhibits in 2026 including a beautiful family bible from 1871, used by the Leslie Family in Insch, trophies of the SWRI and a wedding hat worn in 1913.





**Wartle
Community
Association**

Upcoming Events @ Meikle Wartle Village Hall

- Bingo Friday 24th Apr 2026 7pm
- Plant Sale & Coffee Morning Sat 9th May 2026 10am-Noon
- WCA AGM Wed 24th Jun 2026 7pm

For other events – please check village notice boards & Facebook.

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 Of Wartle Filling Station & Shop.

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

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

Enquiries can be made to wcawartle@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our upcoming events. Your continued support of Premnay Hall is greatly appreciated

Friday 24th April - Quiz Night (BYOB) - 7.30pm, only £2.50 p/p

Fri 8th & Sat 9th May - Pop-Up Bar, 7pm - 12pm, Darts/Pool/Games

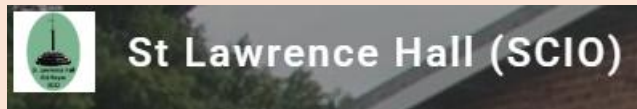
Saturday 9th May - Coffee Morning, 10am - 12noon, Home Bakes

Friday 29th May Quiz Night (BYOB) - 7.30pm, only £2.50 p/p

Saturday 13th June - Summer Fayre: Craft & Plant Sale, 10am - 12noon (plus usual Coffee Morning Treats)

Fri 19th & Sat 20th June - Pop-up Bar, 7pm - Late - See FB Page for Updates

Friday 26th June Quiz Night (BYOB) - 7.30pm, only £2.50 p/p



St Lawrence Hall (SCIO)

St. Lawrence Hall is the Hall in Old Rayne and we have the following events coming up

- Sat. 9th May Soup & Sweet. 11.00am - 2.00pm
- Sat. 23rd May Pop Up Pub 6.00pm - Midnight
- Sat. 28th June Pop Up Pub. 6.00pm - Midnight

For more information about the hall see our website - www.oldraynevillagehall.com



**Premnay Hall
(SC023055)**

Contact us at: premnayhall@outlook.com or via our '[Premnay Hall & Community Association](#)' FB page.

BENNACHIE LEISURE CENTRE
Bennachie Leisure Centre
Largie Road, Inch, AB52 6LT
Sunday 17th May
10am-4pm

Insch Family Fun Dog Show

Prizes donated by **Inverurie Pet Supplies**
£2.50 per dog per class (12 Classes)
Registration on the day

**RAFFLE
STALLS · FOOD
BOUNCY CASTLE
DEMONSTRATIONS**

All proceeds will go to support **Bennachie Leisure Centre Charity**

OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator
SC023888

To book a stall contact info@blcinsch.co.uk

CHAPEL OF GARIOCH VILLAGE HALL

The new accessible facilities and shower room are finished. These are part of the halls role in resilience and can be used in power cuts or when private water supplies dry up.

We will be having a Pop up Pub on Friday the 8th May See our [Facebook](#) page for further details. The awarding winning Bay fish and chip van will be selling suppers from 5pm with the bar open from 7pm. Real beer will be on tap and a selection of other drinks for sale.

ALLOTMENT OPEN MORNING

to see the current development and example plots



Saturday 28th March 2026
10am-12 noon

Shevock Burn Allotments,
Old Leslie Road

(walking access from Auchleven junction, going
out of Inch across railway)

All welcome

INSCH WALKING GROUP



This group was formed in 2015, with a membership of 14, to take 4-6 mile walks together on alternate Sundays, within a radius of about 30 miles from Inch. The group is part

of the Grampian 50+ Network, to which we pay a £5 annual fee, per member.

Here is a photo of the very first group walk, February 2015.



We currently have a membership of 22 and are always happy to welcome new members. We are a friendly lot and we also welcome well-behaved dogs (with their owners!)

We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year, at the BLC in Inch at 9.30 am. We can often share lifts, if we're going a bit of a distance, or you could follow along in your own car.

We take it in turns to lead walks and are always happy to find new ones to explore.

The Grampian 50+ Network also runs courses, such as First Aid and Map-reading. There are also larger group Network gatherings in Spring, Summer and Autumn, where different walking groups get together and do a variety of activities, crafts, sports and visits.

Find us on Facebook – [Insch Walking Group](#) – or contact Lesley 07889800177 or Fred 07446196937
Or email lesleysergeant@hotmail.com



Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy
The Lord-Lieutenant's Update



Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Aberdeenshire residents who were recognised for the outstanding

contributions they have made across the county and beyond in the King's New Year Honours List. From highland dancing to historic building preservation, apprenticeships / catering, charitable work, tourism, cadets, medicine we are grateful to them and proud of their achievements. Peter Bruce (CBE) for catering/charity, Prof. Zosia Miedzybrodzka (OBE) for genetics, Claire Bruce (MBE) for tourism, James Buchan (MBE) for seafood, Paul Higson (MBE) for heritage, David Reid (MBE) for disability support, Adele Steel (MBE) for Girlguiding, and Alison Milne (BEM) for highland dancing and Squadron Leader Stewart Norris (BEM) for youth.

Inverurie and District u3a

I had the great pleasure of being the inaugural speaker at a meeting of the newly formed u3a group for

Inverurie and District. There are over 1,000 u3as with around 400,000 members which provide a wide range of opportunities to come together and learn for fun.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Celebration Evening

I was delighted to join Provost Judy Whyte and other guests at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award North-East of Scotland Celebration evening recently. During the event the guests heard many stories from young people of the positive and life changing impact from participating in the award scheme. Many congratulations to the DofE Award Scheme for all they continue to achieve in this their 70th anniversary year.



Anniversaries, Birthdays

Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of special milestones, 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th birthdays and present a card and personal congratulations. Please do look at our web site, details below, for further information.

Honours

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who has made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community. The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website.

Would you like to learn more about the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy?

Myself, or one of my Deputies would be delighted to visit local groups and schools to share information about the Lieutenancy and the work we do. Please use the email contact below to get in touch.

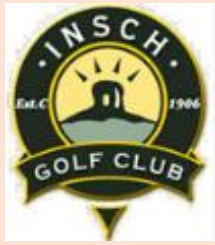
<https://www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk> or contact us info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk



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

Very best wishes to you all

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



Here at Insch Golf Club, we're proud to be known as the friendly wee club that loves a good get-together. We're always delighted to welcome new members and their guests, and after the buzz of the 2025 festive season, 2026 is already shaping up to be just as exciting!

April marks the real start of our golfing season for our gents, ladies, and seniors. It's always a joy to see familiar faces back on the course as spring arrives. If you've been thinking about giving golf a try, there's no better time to get started—we'd be more than happy to chat through our membership options and help you take that first step.

Our junior section—arguably our most energetic!—continues to go from strength to strength, with an amazing 102 young golfers taking to the fairways. We're thrilled to see so many rising stars joining us, and who knows—we might even help them stay out of the rough! We'll be hosting a junior registration and information evening on 14th April, with coaching sessions beginning on 6th May.

We're also delighted to welcome back our Annual Coffee Morning on 18th April from 10am to 12pm. It's a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends and



neighbours while enjoying a cuppa, along with freshly baked scones or pancakes. This year, we'll also have a raffle and a variety of stalls—including a children's chocolate stall to keep those sweet treats flowing!

While the summer months are all about great golf, we always make time to celebrate—and this year's Summer Ball promises to be a highlight. Returning after its success two years ago, it's the perfect way to kick off the season and show off your dance moves! The event will be held at Thainstone Exchange on 13th June, with transport provided to and from Insch. Tickets are £65 per person, and availability is now very limited, so please get in touch with Jayne (administrator@inschgolclub.co.uk) to secure yours.



We'll also be celebrating Father's Day on Sunday 21st June with lunches and dinners available throughout the day—a perfect way to treat someone special. Our chef, Keith, will be launching the menu in late April, so keep an eye out for more details.

We hope you all enjoy a wonderful start to the spring and summer season. With brighter days and longer evenings ahead, it certainly feels well deserved after the winter we've had!

Happy golfing, The Insch Golf Club Team

LOCAL GROUPS IN THE AREA

| DAY | WHEN | WHERE |
|---|---|---|
| MONDAY | | |
| Community Café See St Drostan's Facebook page | 11.30am to 1.30pm | St Drostan's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Inch, AB52 6JB |
| Community Café See Premnay Hall Facebook Page - | 9.30am - 11am | Premnay Hall & Community Association, Oyne Road, Premnay, Auchleven, Inch, AB52 6QE |
| Craft Classes - beading, embroidery etc | 11am to 2pm | Insch Institute, Rannes Street. Ann 07742 330717 |
| Sit Fit Chair Fitness | 11am | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Group | 14:30 to 15:30pm | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Brew and Blether (1 st Monday of the month) | 2 – 4 | Logie Durno Village Hall, Pitcaple, AB51 5EJ |
| 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 |
| 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 th 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 |
| TUESDAY | | |
| FIT 4 LIFE circuits | 9.30 - 10.15am | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Walking Football | 10.45am | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Painting for Leisure | 10.30am to 12.30 | The Institute, Rannes Street, Inch, AB52 6JJ contact Jill on 01464 820199 |
| Insch Library | 3pm to 5pm | Insch Library, The Institute, Rannes Street, Inch, 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 |
| Spin | 17.30pm | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Pilates | 6.30 – 7.30pm | Oyne Village Hall, Onye |
| Insch Trail Running Club | 7pm | See Insch Trail Running Facebook page |
| Box N Fit | 7pm | Insch Institute, Rannes Street, Inch, AB52 6JJ |
| WEDNESDAY | | |
| Sole mates Walking Group | 10:00 – 11:00 | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| TRX | 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 |
| Walking Netball | 13.30 to 14.30 | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Insch Connection Museum April to October 28 th | 2 – 4 pm | Railway Station, North Road, Inch |
| Insch Community Choir | 6.30 for 7pm | St Drostan's Church Hall, Inch, Commerce Street, |
| Junior Golf (spring and autumn) | 6 to 7pm | Insch Golf Club, Golf Terrace, Inch, AB52 6JY |
| Jazzercise | 7pm | Oyne Village Hall, Onye |
| Pilates | 19.15 to 20.00 | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Scottish Women's Institute Largie- every 2 nd Wednesday of the month | 7.30 pm | St Drostan's Church Hall, Inch, Commerce Street, AB52 6JB |

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| Scottish Women's Institute Premnay - every 2 nd 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 |
| THURSDAY | | |
| WALKFIT | 9.15 – 9.45am | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| SIT FIT Chair Fitness | 11 – 12 noon | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Brenda Gordon School of Dance | Thursday afternoons see Facebook page | Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR |
| Insch, Leslie & District Men's Shed Alternative week times | 1pm – 4pm 1pm – 8pm | Old School, Leslie . See Facebook page for more details regarding Sunday hours |
| Indoor Short mat Bowling- 2 nd 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 |
| Insch Craft Group Third Thursday of the month | 6.30pm to 9pm | Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR |
| Scottish Country Dancing - new members and beginner's welcome. Starts 14 th Sept | 8pm to 9.30pm | Insch Church Hall, Western Road, AB52 6JR contact Margaret 01464 821384 or Pam 01464 821304 |
| Fit 4 Life/Circuits | 18:15 – 7 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, Oyne |
| Netball | 8pm | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| FRIDAY | | |
| Body Blast | 10 – 10.45am | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Pottery | 10am – 2pm | Oyne Village Hall, Oyne |
| TRX stretch | 11am – 11:45am | Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT |
| Adult Badminton | 1pm | 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 rd 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 16 th January for members | 8pm | Insch Golf Club, Golf Terrace, Insch |
| SATURDAY | | |
| Men's Breakfast Club | From 8.30am to 9.30/10am | Alternates monthly between Insch Parish Church and St Drostan's Episcopal Church Insch |
| Reel Club (1 st Saturday of the month) | 7pm | Oyne Village Hall, Oyne |
| SUNDAY | | |
| 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 |
| Christian Youth Club for youngsters of secondary school age. | 5 to 7pm in St in St Drostan's Hall | St Drostan's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Insch, AB52 6JB |

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| Younger Christian youth club called All Stars for those in primary 5, 6 and 7. | 4 to 5.30pm in St Drostan's Hall. | St Drostan's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Inch, AB52 6JB |
| Bennachie Parish Church at Chapel of Garioch | Services 10am on the 2 nd & 4 th Sundays of the month. | See www.bennachieparish.church for the next Joint Service. |
| 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 4 - 5 miles within 30 miles of Inch, contact Morris on 07824 618369. |
| Insch Connection Museum | April to October 28 th 2 – 4 pm | Railway Station, North Road, Inch |
| 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, Inch, AB52 6JR |
| Monthly Pop up Bakery 19 th April, 17 th May, 14 th June | 10am – 12 noon | Insch Institute, Rannes Street, Inch |

Contacts details for children's groups

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

Scouting -insch@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk or pitcable@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 Inch which teaches BSL. Abricabeats and Playtheme 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 Inch [Facebook](#) Page

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

Insch Leslie and District Men's Shed – Meeting every Thursday at the Old School in Leslie. Open one week 1 – 4pm and alternate week 1 – 8pm to give working people the opportunity to attend. See their Facebook page for more details. [Insch, Leslie District Men's 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 Inch. See [Insch Mens Breakfast | Facebook](#) for more details.

Well done to Cross Country Skier Andrew Musgrave who had four amazing top ten finishes representing Britain at his fifth Winter Olympics Games in Italy last month. As a boy Andrew trained at the Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre which is Britain's only purpose-built all-weather facility for cross-country skiing and roller skiing, providing tuition at all levels from novice up to recreational skier. For more information see the Nordic Ski Club [Facebook](#) Page and [Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre - Live, Life Aberdeenshire](#)

We would like to thank the Glens of Foudland Windfarm Community Trust for a grant which will allow us to print the next 8 issues of the Bennachie Community Newsletter. This is very much appreciated and allows us to reach people who cannot access our Social Media Page [Bennachie Community Council | Inch | Facebook](#) or Website where the newsletter is published [Bennachie Community Newsletter | Bennachie CC](#)