

BENNACHIE COMMUNITY NEWS

This newsletter promotes the Bennachie Area and the activities happening within it.

You can get printed copies from: - Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch; 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 Insch Library

You can contact us on bennachiecommunitynews@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

JANUARY	What	Where
Thursday 1 st 7 – 10pm	New Year's Ceilidh	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Insch
Thursday 1 st 8 – 11.30pm	The 22 nd Survivors Ceilidh	Logie Durno Village Hall, Pitcapple
Sunday 25th January	Pop up Café with The Culinary Kiwi Bird and Morley's, 10-12noon	The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch
FEBRUARY	What	Where
Saturday 14 th	Valentine's Afternoon Tea	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
Saturday 21 st	Brew & Buttery 10 – 12noon	Wartle Village Hall, Meikle Wartle
Sunday 22nd February	Pop up Café with The Culinary Kiwi Bird and Morley's, 10-12noon	The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch
Saturday 28th	Pop up Pub night	St Lawrence Hall, Old Rayne
Saturday 28 th	Dot Painting Workshop	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
MARCH	What	Where
Sunday 1 st March	Bennachie Parish Church Joint Service 10am	Chapel of Garioch Church
Sunday 8 th March	Ladies of Leith Hall Tour and Tea	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
Sunday 15 th March	Ladies of Leith Hall Tour and Tea	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
Sunday 21 st March	Pottery Painting Workshop	Leith Hall, Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ
Sunday 22nd March	Pop up Café with The Culinary Kiwi Bird and Morley's, 10-12noon	The Institute, Rannes Street, Insch

We would like to thank all the volunteers in our area who take time out of their day to help make the area a much better place to live in. If you would like to volunteer most of the groups mentioned in this newsletter would love to hear from you.





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 January 26th. We are still looking for new members from the following areas- Insch (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 (Insch) 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 (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 or see our [Facebook](#) page

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

1. Insch 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.

Insch Hospital Review and local healthcare management

1. Insch Hospital Review

In July the Integration Joint Board (IJB) agreed that a review of the Insch War Memorial Hospital should be conducted, to determine whether they should declare the building surplus to requirements. Although we worked closely with Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) to propose Terms of Reference for the review and suggested candidates to be Independent Chair, disappointingly the first meeting of the Insch Hospital Review was only held on December 9th.

Susan McLaren has been appointed by AHSCP as Independent Chair. She had a career as a police officer, then joined Moray Council, retiring as Head of Children's Services for Moray.

The first meeting did not agree the Terms of Reference for the way forward for the review. There was disagreement on the AHSCP view of the minutes from the IJB which has as yet to be resolved. Work will recommence in January.

Consultation with residents including face to face events will be an integral part of the review.

All parties recognise the need to conclude the work before the Scottish Government elections next year. The original IJB recommendation on Insch Hospital was made in 2022, there has been no progress to date, BCC area is in limbo with the worst of ten options for healthcare, and further extending the uncertainty by deferring the conclusion beyond the Holyrood election would be the worst possible outcome.

2. Community Hospital Review

AHSCP are conducting a review of the entire Community Hospital estate. BCC used social media to promote the public survey and roadshows in Huntly and Inverurie. Most BCC members attended one of the drop in sessions to express concern about the lack of progress since Insch War Memorial Hospital was closed during Covid and BCC made a comprehensive submission. It is intended that findings from the Insch Hospital Review will feed into the Community Hospital

Review in Q1 2026. BCC has asked to be represented on the Community hospital Review.

3. NHS (Grampian) Annual review with Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care took place on December 1st in Aberdeen. BCC representatives took the opportunity to have informal discussions with key NHS and AHSCP attendees. The summary letter from the minister has not yet been received, but in May AHSCP had been escalated to Level four, one below the worst level of five on NHS Scotland's National performance Framework. In the brief public Q&A session at the end of the meeting the minister, answering questions put by BCC confirmed that additional funding has been made available to resource home care, GP practices and community hospitals to alleviate pressure on ARI.

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](#). We have been concentrating on the Local Place Plan which is now finished.

Local Place Plans

Thank you to everyone who attended our meetings, filled in our survey, spoke to us at the Strawberry Fayre and commented on the draft Local Place Plan. We have completed the plan and it is now lodged with Aberdeenshire Council for verification purposes to see if it can be accepted. This is as per the procedure for local place plans. You can see the plan on the BCC website [Community Action + Local Place Plans | Bennachie CC](#)



TRANSPORT

Meeting with local MP Harriet Cross to discuss A96 dualling.

Although the Scottish Government have said they are still committed to the dualling the A96 from Aberdeen to Inverness, the A96 Corridor review published in June demonstrated that dualling the entire A96 is not the optimal solution. Traffic volumes between Inverurie and Fochabers do not meet Transport Scotland requirements for dualling and dualling is not consistent with the Scottish Government commitment to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030. The Corridor Review Refined Package of Interventions includes Improved Public Transport Interchange Facilities; Investment in Demand Responsive Transport and Mobility as a service; Linespeed, Passenger and Freight Capacity Improvements on the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway Line; Elgin Bypass and Keith Bypass; Targeted Road Safety Improvements and A96 Electric Corridor, which would cost £501m to £1b, compared to £2.5 to 5bn for dualling the A96 Aberdeen to Nairn.

BCC supports the Corridor Review Refined Package of Interventions as the best option for our community. There is no economic justification for dualling, commuting and business travel have fallen markedly since the pandemic, the proposed dualling route will not fix traffic problems in Inverurie and would destroy mature woodland and some of the best agricultural land in Scotland. Targeted Road Safety Improvements will allow early action on the A96 junction at Colpy where there have been two fatalities in recent years.

BCC confirmed during Scottish Government Consultation that we support the Refined Package of Interventions and wrote to all local MSP's asking them to represent our views. Despite the fact that the Scottish Government has no money so dualling of the A96 could not start before 2030 when the A90 dualling is scheduled to be complete, our local MP continues to press the Scottish Government to proceed with the A96 dualling. BCC representatives met with Harriet Cross, our local MP and Andrew Raeburn, her Head of Office. The meeting was hosted on a local farm north of Old Rayne so that she could see the impact both on loss of prime agricultural land and on Bennachie. Harriet recognised the need for urgent safety

improvements at the Colpy junction and to address the disruption caused by commuter traffic in Inverurie. We agreed that a decision is required from the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Transport early in the new year to avoid delay past the 2026 Holyrood elections. No decision stifles investment in the region and is the worst possible outcome.



20mph Speed Limit

The national 20mph speed limit in built up areas was implemented in Aberdeenshire on September 22nd. Signs are now installed in all BCC settlements. No assessment is yet available of how effectively the 20mph limit is being observed or enforced. In due course there will be a separate review considering possible additional 20mph restrictions.

Aberdeen to Inverness Bus Service

Bus firm Ember started a new electric bus route E7 between Aberdeen and Inverness on June 5th. Since 24th September there have been 16 return services per day, departing Aberdeen between 0200 and 2100 and Inverness between 0200 and 2230. Scheduled stops include Pitciple, Pitmachie and Colpy. Tickets must be pre-booked, whether it's weeks or even minutes before. Timetables are available and bookings can be made on the Ember website

<https://www.ember.to>

M96 buses are electric buses which run between Aberdeen and Inverness. The only stop in our area is Pitmachie. See for more details [M96 Bus Route & Timetable: Aberdeen - Inverness | Stagecoach](#)

Stagecoach also has the Number 10 Inverness to Aberdeen buses which go through our area along the A96.

The 64/64A bus also goes into and out of Aberdeen via Insch and Oyne once per day.



A2B dial-a-bus is a council operated minibus service providing travel for shopping or other local services or facilities. The service is free to use and is available for people that have difficulty walking, people with other disabilities or residents who don't live near a regular bus route. This A2B dial-a-bus bus service offers low floor and wheelchair accessible transport.

You must book your journeys on this door-to-door service.

You can book up to 7 days before travel or 14 days for health-related trips, but no later than the day before travel. To make a booking please email a2bdialabus@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or phone A2B dial-a-bus on [01467 535 333](tel:01467 535 333) (option 1). The booking line is open Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 3:30pm.

Insch – Huntly- Fridays only

Stops	Friday	Stops	Friday
Insch	0925	Huntly (Tesco)	1130
Auchleven	0935	Huntly town	1140
Leslie	0940	Gartly	1150
Kennethmont	0950	Kennethmont	1200
Gartly	1000	Leslie	1210
Huntly town	1010	Auchleven	1215
Huntly (Tesco)	1030	Insch	1225

[Huntly A2B dial-a-bus - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

Yyne - Leslie – Inverurie - Thursdays only

Inverurie rural A2B dial-a-bus - Aberdeenshire Council

Stop	Thursday
Oyne	0920
Auchleven	0930
Leslie	0945
Insch	0955
Old Rayne	1005
Durno	1010
Pitciple	1020
Inverurie	1030

Stop	Thursday
Inverurie	1300
Oyne	1325
Auchleven	1335
Leslie	1340
Insch	1350
Old Rayne	1400
Durno	1405
Pitciple	1410

For bus routes in the area please see the 41 Insch to Inverurie Service from [Services - Watermill Coaches](#) which runs Monday to Saturday and also the 308 which runs from New Deer to Inverurie via Meikle Wartle.

Trains

There is now a flat rate train fare for travel during the day. Trains go to Aberdeen and Inverness from Insch. To find out more information about the train timetables see

[Trains from Inverness to Aberdeen | Train Times](#)

As there is an accessibility issue at Insch Station if you need help see [Accessible Travel | Assistance & Facilities | ScotRail](#)

Resilience

We attended a Resilience Workshop held by North East Councils with groups from Moray, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire on the 10th of October. The topics covered everything from Wildfires, Snow wardens to Cyber Security.

It was the talk on Cyber Security and the use of AI which had most of us promising to change our passwords. They recommended using 3 random words with at least 12 characters and not PASSWORD! that some people use.

Cyber Security is something we all need to pay attention to. This site gives information on how to stay safe online. Everything from choosing Passwords to setting up 2 stage verification [Cyber security advice for you & your family - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

Aberdeenshire Council also produces Trading Standard Bulletins which covers scams and crime in our area. [Trading Standards Crime and Scams bulletin - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

When there is a weather/flood/fire/draught 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 event.

Hopefully the snow won't be too bad this year but something we would like to make you aware of 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](#)

If you need to report a road issue you can do this online using this link [Report a road, pavement or a roadside issue - Aberdeenshire Council](#) or you can use myAberdeenshire App by clicking on the Reporting Folder on the front page.

[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.

Resilience starts in the home by being prepared. If you need to leave the house in a hurry due to flooding or storm warnings having an emergency kit is handy as well as an emergency plan.

DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN?

IF YOU OR YOUR PROPERTY ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 999 /112

1. If a major emergency happens it may be some time before help arrives. It's very important that you and your family get together to prepare. You should be prepared to cope for 72 hours. Agree a plan in advance with those in your home. Complete it together and keep it safe in case you need to use it. If the emergency means it is not safe to go out, the advice is usually to:

GO IN Go indoors and close all windows/doors

STAY IN Stay indoors until given the all clear

TUNE IN Tune in to local radio, TV or the Internet

Local Radio Stations (you can do this in the car and it may be possible to charge your phone in your car).

Northsound 1: 96.9 FM

Northsound 2: 1035 kHz

Original 106: 106.8 or 106.3FM

BBC Radio Scotland: 92 – 95FM 810 MW

2. If you have to leave your home, get out, stay out, and take others with you.

3. Agree with your household 2 meeting places or friends to stay with, one near home and one further away, in case you can't get home.

Family Meeting Place	
Community Hub/ Second Meeting Place	

4. Your Contacts. If you have a mobile phone, make sure you add the contact details of a key contact person, your neighbours, school and / or work contacts, doctors, vets, child minders, plumber, electrician, fuel provider etc. Where possible back these up on the internet and note your internet/ email access details. If you don't have a mobile phone or internet access, make a list and attach it to this plan.

5. Useful contact numbers:

Police, Ambulance, Fire brigade, Coast Guard or Mountain Rescue	Emergency 999 or 112	Insch Health Centre	0345 337 6310
Police	Non-emergency 101	Wilson Chemist Insch	01464 820266
NHS	Non-emergency 111	Inverurie Health Centre	0345 337 9911
SEPA Floodline	0345 988 1188	Wills Chemist, High Street, Inverurie	01467 620475
SSE	105	Insurance	
Scottish Water	0800 0778 778	Childcare	
Aberdeenshire Council during office hours Report a road, pavement or a roadside issue - Aberdeenshire Council	Roads and Landscape 0345 608 1205	Vet	
Plumber		Work/School	

Plan



learn, laugh, live

u3a

Inverurie and District u3a goes live on 13 January at 10.30am in St Andrew's Church Hall, Inverurie

If you are retired or no longer in full-time work, u3a is meant for you. It brings together people who want to learn new skills and share their knowledge and interests with others. Members can join in a range of activities and share experiences in the company of new friends.

What is u3a?

Meetings are held each month with a guest speaker, to which all members are invited. More importantly, members meet in special interest groups, with topics decided by, and led by, the members themselves. The number and range of subjects is limited only by their imagination and the choices they make.

Founded by the Third Age Trust, it has branches all over the country, with links through a Scottish network to share information and ideas. Each branch is managed locally by its own members to organise groups and events.

What happens now?

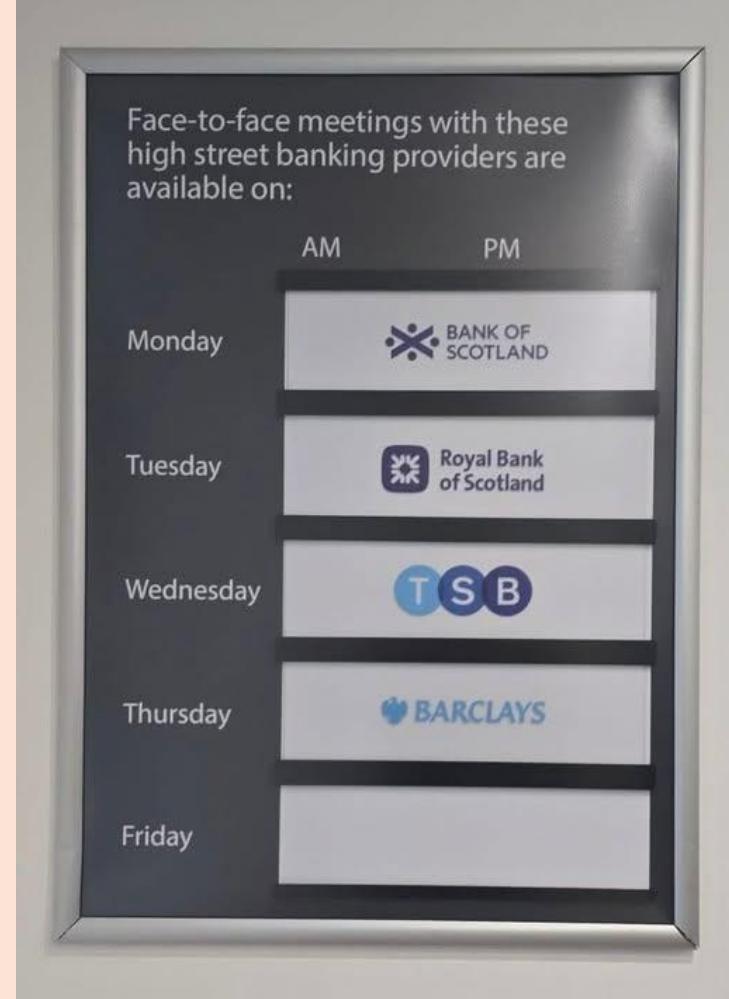
If you are interested in anything from photography to philosophy, crosswords to cooking, archaeology to arts and crafts, walking to talking, or just want to meet with new people to share ideas, we would like to invite you to our inaugural meeting to find out more. It takes place on Tuesday 13th January at 10.30am in St Andrews Church Hall, Inverurie.

You will be very welcome

More information can be found on the Inverurie and District u3a [Facebook](#) page and on our website which will be starting soon.

HUNTLY BANKING HUB

The Banking hub is open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm and is located in 30 The Square, Huntly. See their [Facebook](#) page for more information.



**BENNACHIE
LEISURE CENTRE**

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Bennachie Leisure Centre staff and trustees want to convey their gratitude for the support the community has given BLC, especially in the last few months. We thank all the volunteers who help week in and week out as well as all those whose tremendous efforts made our Santa's Grotto such a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

We also thank everyone who has come to classes, used the gym, bought items from Twice as Nice and enjoyed a visit to our cafe. BLC's continued growth depends on you!

Events for 2026 start with a New Year Ceilidh on 1 January. Tickets available at time of writing. Look out for more of BLC's pop up bistro evenings in the coming months.



We are delighted to announce that 2 EV chargers will be installed at BLC before Christmas. This has been made possible with a grant from the Rural and Infrastructure Fund, supported by Connekt. BLC will receive a share of profits so by charging your EV at BLC you are contributing to both Net Zero and to your community hub.

BLC is pleased to be working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council's E-Bike initiative. Four electric bikes are available to hire from BLC and more information is available on ebikeaberdeenshire.co.uk/locations. Bookings can be made by downloading the MOQO App. Rental is £6.00 per two-hour slot.

If you have an hour or two a week to volunteer and be part of the BLC success story, please contact reception@blcinsch.co.uk.

LOGIE DURNO HALL & COMMUNITY



The 22nd Survivors Ceilidh takes place on Thursday 1st January 8 – 11.30pm. We also have Brew and a Blether, 1st Monday of the month 2 to 4pm. See our [Facebook](#) page for details

LEITH HALL GARDEN & ESTATE

Opening Hours

Henrietta's Tearoom Opening Times

January - March 2026

Saturday and Sunday 10:30am - 3:30pm

Hall reopening Easter weekend, Friday the 3rd of April.

Tours commence plus it's our annual Easter Trail 3rd to 5th April! More details coming in the next issue.

The wall garden is open every day from 10am – 4pm. The estate is open every day from dawn to dusk.

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!

JANUARY - APRIL EVENTS



WINTER AFTERNOON TEA
SUNDAYS IN JANUARY



AT LEITH HALL

VALENTINE'S AFTERNOON TEA
14TH FEBRUARY

DOT PAINTING WORKSHOP
28TH FEBRUARY

LADIES OF LEITH HALL - TOUR & TEA
8TH & 15TH MARCH

POTTERY PAINTING WORKSHOP
21ST MARCH

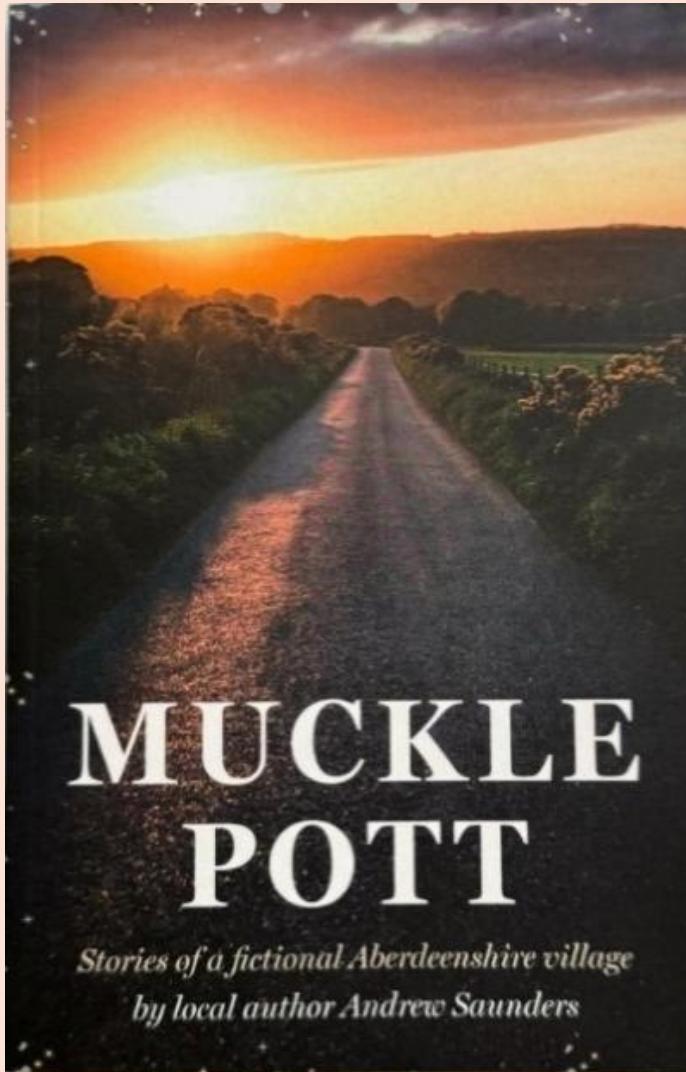
EASTER TRAIL
3RD - 5TH APRIL



TICKETS & INFO

Email: leithhall@nts.org.uk
Phone: 01464 831216

Visit Eventbrite - Leith Hall for more information



Muckle Pott, by local author Andrew Saunders, contains sixteen interesting and unusual short stories. They are set in a fictional Aberdeenshire village. Some of the tales are told by Phil the nosey village postie, who collects people's stories while on his round. The book can be bought in Inverurie from Strachans, Gallery and the Cancer Research shop. In Huntly at Number 30, Dean's of Huntly and Orb's Bookshop. In Insch at The Bennachie Leisure Centre, the Co-op, Wilson's Chemist and Louis' Little Haven.



Hi folks, I'm an award winning Insch based sourdough and viennoiserie baker (The Culinary Kiwi Bird) and I've been holding monthly pop ups at the

Institute in Rannes Street with Morley's Coffee. They are held on a Sunday and people can sit in or take out. They can also pre-order bakes, coffee bags and hot drinks too if they wish. I wanted to do this as there is no-where open in Insch on a Sunday where you can get

coffee and something to eat or fresh sourdough breads to take away.

Sunday 25th January, 10-12

Sunday 22nd February, 10-12

Sunday 22nd March, 10-12

All held at the Institute, Rannes Street, Insch.



Path upgrade update!

For the last few months, we have been asking for donations for the Help Your Hill project and we thought you would like an update. So far, we have raised approximately £16,000. This is a fabulous start but we haven't dropped the baton. As the Bailies of Bennachie biggest ever project on Bennachie we aim to raise money towards estimated costs of £100,000 to repair the path.

Part of our fundraising will be through the website shop selling branded items such as this lovely mug and T-shirt. Keep checking back as we will be adding new products regularly.



To donate to this fundraiser go to the website and look for 'Donate' or look for the 'Shop' www.bailiesofbennachie.co.uk



Alternatively, use the QR code and select 'support us'. Contact us on info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

THANK YOU!



LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE

Live Life Aberdeenshire
Essentials offers a range of free services. You could pop along to a library to pick up a book or stay in the comfort of your home to read an e-Book through our Digital Library or virtually flick through the day's newspapers and magazines.

Charge your mobile devices and access WiFi or freshen up with a shower at one of our sports and leisure venues. Perhaps soak up some culture at one of our museums or get access to a computer through our libraries.

To sign up to Live Life Essentials see: [Sign up to Live Life Essentials](#) Once you've signed up you'll receive an email within 24 hours with information on how to access Press Reader and Libby. If you need help signing up **Call - (01467) 532929**

INSCH LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

TUESDAY 3 – 5pm

FRIDAY 2 – 5pm



Free WiFi

Simply look for MyAberdeenshire Wifi on your device, register to connect, and browse the web for free. Available in all Live Life Aberdeenshire venues.

Free showers

Freshen up with a shower at any of our sports and leisure venues. No need to book just visit your local facility during public session times.



Free mobile device charging

Need to top up your phone, just pop into one of our venues and plug into one of our designated power points.

Free access to public computers



Pop in past your local library where you will find our computers set up and ready for you to use. All our computers have Microsoft Office applications installed as well as access to the internet. Register and use your library membership number to access our PC's.



Free e-Books and e-Audiobooks

With over 22,000 e-Books and e-Audiobooks available to borrow, you'll be spoiled for choice when trying to decide on your next read. Download the Libby app and log in using your library number and PIN: [Google Play Store](#), [Apple App Store](#) Find out more: [Getting started with Libby](#)



Free access to PressReader

Access the latest local, national and international newspapers, as well as your favourite magazines. Use your library borrower number and PIN to access PressReader. Visit [www.pressreader.com](#) or open the [Press Reader app](#). See [Live Life Essentials - Live, Life Aberdeenshire](#) for more information.

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL SERVICE POINT

Now that Gordon House has been demolished the Council Service Point has been moved to Inverurie Library, Town Hall, Market Place, Inverurie, AB51 3SN.

Its open Tuesday to Thursday, 8.45am to 5pm

View the [Inverurie Service Point on a map](#)



**Wartle
Community
Association**

Upcoming Events @ Meikle Wartle Village Hall

Hogmanay

31st Dec 2025 8pm till late

Brew & Butterly

Sat 21st Feb 2026 10am-Noon

Plant Sale & Coffee Sat 9th May 2026 10am-Noon
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



St. Lawrence Hall is the Hall in Old Rayne. It has its Annual General Meeting on 23rd January 2026

There is also a Pop up Pub Night on 28th February 2026

Time and more information for both will be on our website - www.oldraynevillagehall.com



A Big Thank You! From The Studio - Insch.

We wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you so much for all your support over the festive season (and beyond). In November we enjoyed being part of Insch Christmas Shopping Event and again it was a wonderful success.

We are so grateful for every order, and for everyone who pops into the studio, even just for a browse or chat.

Here's what you can expect for the start of 2026...

JANUARY

We plan to take it slow! The studio is pretty chilly to work from in the Winter months so we'll come out of hibernation tentatively with slightly reduced opening times.

Becky's art classes will start back on the 13th/14th for the kids and 14th for adults. There may be a few spaces available, so if you'd like to know more, drop Becky an email at theillustratedtreeco@gmail.com

The art classes are relaxed small group sessions and are suitable for all abilities.

FEBRUARY

...is our BiRtHdAY month when we'll celebrate 3 years of being in The Studio!

You can expect some cheeky offers and maybe a bit of cake or something sweet... keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page for more info - but don't worry... you're definitely all invited!

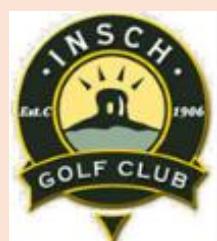
MARCH

Brings Mother's Day makes! A big time for businesses like ourselves creating gorgeous gifts and homeware. We'll be working hard to bring you plenty of your usual favourite makes and we'll be coming up with new gift ideas too.

We hope to host a few creative WORKSHOPS over these Winter months, so if you'd like to be added to our mailing list for more information, please email thestudioinsch@gmail.com 

See you in the New Year!

INSCH GOLF CLUB



Here at Insch Golf Club we are known as the friendly wee club who loves to party, we are always open to new members and their guests. Following the rush of the 2025 festive season, 2026 is shaping up to be exactly the same!

During January we will be starting our Bingo again from Friday 16th, this is held every two weeks. This is a member only event.

The first of our popular Sunday roasts start again on the 31st January, bookings have already started for these, so give us a call and book your place and get your roast dinner fix without the dishes

The Donald's are returning for their infamous quiz, on the 20th February. These nights always include a battle to the top, if your expertise is sport, general knowledge or brain aching questions then this is one for you.

Our Tipsy Tea will be held on the 7th of March this year, we are aiming for the same level of energy, dance offs and amazingly, brilliant outfits as last year! We plan to take you on a trip around the world, with cocktails, nibbles and fancy dress. Members get advanced notification of this, so watch out for the emails!

Mother's Day lunches and dinners will be available all day on Sunday 15th March. Treat your loved ones. Our chef Keith will be launching the menu for this late February so keep an eye out.

To round off the end of March and the ever long winter season, we have our Winter League Final Day. Consisting of much merriment from our golfers. This is a brilliant afternoon for all who take part and a fantastic way to see off those winter months.

We are hosting our Summer Ball again this year on the 13th June, with buses running again from the club and back. More on this in the next issue. Here's to a happy and healthy year for all.



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 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th 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.



Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Major Grenville Irvine-Fortescue MBE DL had the pleasure of visiting Mr and Mrs Leslie Bruce to present many congratulations on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Les and Betty first met at a Beatnik Ball at the Beach Ballroom. Their family had arranged a surprise party earlier in the week at the Atholl Hotel in Aberdeen where Les and Betty were married. Les went to school at Cults and then to Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. He spent much of his working life as a chemist at the Rowett Institute specialising in animal nutrition. Betty spent her working life as a nurse in Aberdeen. When Les retired they moved to their home near Pitcaple. It was wonderful to



Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy
The Lord-Lieutenant's Update



Remembrance Sunday 2025

Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy Deputy Lieutenants and I were honoured to lay wreaths at war memorials across Aberdeenshire on Remembrance Sunday. Major Mike Taitt DL was delighted to take part in the Insch parade and lay a wreath, on behalf of His Majesty The King, at the Insch War Memorial. Laura McNeil DL took part in the Huntly parade. (pictured)

celebrate this special day with them and a number of their neighbours.

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. Individual awards include the British Empire Medal (BEM), OBE and MBE. The King's Award for Voluntary Service and the King's Award for Enterprise are group or company awards. More information can be found on the Lieutenancy Website about all these honours. The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition and encourages you to propose nominations.

I recently had the great pleasure to present Mr Keith Jensen with his British Empire Medal for his remarkable



work over 30 years saving lives as a paramedic in the North-East of Scotland. Keith has also played a key role in supporting the impactful work of life saving charities such as Aberdeen Mountain Rescue, The Sandpiper Trust and BASICS Scotland. A truly exceptional contribution to our communities and so many families.



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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER

Scout Carol Concert

7pm at Insch Church of Scotland

SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER

Family Christingle Service

4pm at St Drostans Church

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER

Joint Church Carol Service

4pm at Insch Church of Scotland

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER – Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass

11.15pm at St Drostans Church

Watchnight Service

11.30pm at Insch Church of Scotland

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER – Christmas Morning

Christmas Communion

10am at St Drostans Church

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER

Morning Worship

10am at St Drostans Church

Lessons & Carols

10.30am at Insch Church of Scotland

Age Scotland

As we get older our needs change. Age Scotland is a Scottish charity who work to improve the lives of people over 50. Their website that has [Information Guides](#) from everything covering Eating Well to Powers of Attorney.

They also have a resilience leaflet called Being Prepared: Power cuts, extreme weather and beyond [GEN11 Being Prepared Jul 2025 original.pdf](#)

And information about staying safe online.

[LEG14 Staying Safe Online Oct 2025 original.pdf](#)

As well as dealing with the cost of living

[Cost of Living Guide v online original.pdf](#)

And [How to Age Well](#)

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, Insch, AB52 6JB
Community Café See Premnay Hall Facebook Page -	9.30am - 11.30am	Premnay Hall & Community Association, Oyne Road, Premnay, Auchleven, Insch, AB52 6QE
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
Brew and Blether (1 st Monday of the month)		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, Oyne
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	9.30am	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, 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
Spin	17.30pm	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Pilates	6.30 – 7.30pm	Oyne Village Hall, Oyne
Insch Trail Running Club	7pm	See Insch Trail Running Facebook page
Box N Fit	7pm	Insch Institute, Rannes Street, Insch, AB52 6JJ
WEDNESDAY		
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, Oyne
Scottish Women's Institute Largie- every 2 nd Wednesday of the month	7.30 pm	St Drostan's Church Hall, Insch, Commerce Street, AB52 6JB
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		
TRX	9.30am	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
SITFIT	10.30am	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 Also trialling 1 st Sunday every month	1pm – 4pm	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 Drostans's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Insch, AB52 6JB
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
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, Oyne
FRIDAY		
Spin	9.15am	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Power pump Express	10am	Bennachie Leisure Centre, Largie Road, AB52 6LT
Pottery	10am – 2pm	Oyne Village Hall, Oyne
Flex and stretch	11am	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 Drostans's Episcopal Church Insch
Reel Club (1 st Saturday of the month)	7pm	Oyne Village Hall, Oyne
SUNDAY		
St Drostans's Episcopal Church	Service starts at 10 am see Facebook page for other services	St Drostans'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. On Sunday 26th October and Sunday 30th November.	5 to 7pm in St in St Drostans's Hall	St Drostans's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Insch, AB52 6JB
Younger Christian youth club called All Stars for those in primary 5, 6 and 7. This will have its first meeting on Sunday 2nd November.	4 to 5.30pm in St Drostans's Hall.	St Drostans's, Episcopal Church, Commerce Street, Insch, 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 The next Joint Service for the Parish at Chapel of Garioch is on 1 st March.
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 th 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 \(blciensch.scot\)](http://Bennachie%20Leisure%20Centre%20(blciensch.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 Insch 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 Insch [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. They are trialling sessions on the first Sunday of the Month from January. 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 Insch. See [Insch Mens Breakfast | Facebook](#) for more details.

We wish you a happy
and healthy 2026