

LAGGAN MATTERS

Neoni as leith an t-sluaigh, gun aorta an t-sluaigh

Contents

What's on in Laggan

July to November 2025

Laggan Church

Updates

Ponies

Evie Walker

Mary MacDonald

Tribute by Andrew Feilden

Some Laggan Doctors

Graham Grant

Where is it?

Who's Who?

And much much more ...

Welcome to Laggan Matters



‘Nothing on behalf of the people without the agreement of the people’.

Welcome to the Summer edition of Laggan Matters.

Thanks to Phil at Ardverikie for continuing to print hard copies for those unable to download electronic ones and to Jackie for helping deliver them.

As always we welcome your contributions as there wouldn't be a newsletter without them! Therefore please keep sending them in along with any ideas for articles to jillvn@aol.com



Where is it?



Photographed by Jill Warner within the Laggan Parish

Answer to last issue's photo:-Crubenmore



This memorial is in memory of Charlotte and Jane Macpherson, daughters of the late Lachlan Macpherson of Ralia, who tragically perished in the house fire at Crubenbeg in November 1866. The ground was consecrated by Bishop Eden.

If you would like to send one of your photos for this regular feature, please email it to jillvn@aol.com

Helping Hands



The Helping Hands Team

Afternoon Teas

We have all enjoyed getting together for our monthly afternoons of tea and cake. We will take a break during August and September and resume in October with tea and coffee at our Jumble Sale ... dates can be found in the 'What's on Section'.

Food Share Shed

The Food Share Shed is proving as popular as ever and we will continue to monitor it to ensure it is well stocked and with appropriate items.

Jumble Sale

We will be holding a jumble sale on Saturday 11th October in the Village Hall. To arrange dropping off items please contact Jill at jillvn@aol.com
Please note only one bag per household can be accepted.

Laggan Helping Hands



Jumble Sale



in

Laggan Community Hall

on

Saturday 11th October

10.00-12.00pm

Tea, Coffee & biscuits too!

Looking forward to seeing you ...

Purchases with Cash only



Contributions:
Only one bag per household

Creag Meagaidh

Rory Richardson

It has been a busy spring here at Creag Meagaidh, filled with blue skies and glorious warm temperatures. The reserve has hosted various courses and events, including Firearms Skills course, Butchery Courses, Deer Management courses, the annual Black Grouse count, and the infamous Best Practice and Wildlife Management Day.

The Highland Cattle herd will be moved from their winter grazing grounds to the hills in the coming weeks. They are used to graze the lower slopes of the reserve, where they break up the surface, enriching it with dung, and controlling the purple moor grass. They also break up areas of bracken, opening up the ground layer and allowing other species to establish.



Meagaidh still yields no issues with recruiting residential volunteers, where maintenance tasks have been at the forefront of the activity on the reserve, preparing for the Summer ahead. This has included ATV track repairs, car park maintenance, tree planting, mowing paths to be more accessible, litter picking and bracken management.

In addition, deer management has been very active in the reserve's mission to support woodland regeneration, where it aims to maintain the quota of 3-5 deer per square km. This has allowed for a healthy number of venison sales as our volunteers sustainably process the meat into burgers, steaks, mince and more.



The reserve is thriving with wildlife as the breeding season starts, and the hills shift to vibrant shades of green. We had a successful Black Grouse count, recording 54 males and 4 females.

Visitors have been actively reporting sightings on our wildlife sightings board, which includes Ptarmigan, Ring Ouzel, Dotterel, and the elusive Golden Eagle. One of the reserve's residential volunteers, Freddie, has been monitoring raptors and has observed Hen Harrier, Osprey, Sparrowhawk, and White-tailed Eagle, indicating an abundance of suitable prey in the area. Another residential volunteer, Billy, has been busy installing camera traps around the reserve so we can further monitor and discover which wildlife decides to call Creag Meagaidh home.



Some Laggan Doctors

Graham Grant

Recently, Dr David Pinney, one of the fine team at Laggan Surgery, has retired. He looked after many of us with kindness and skill over many years and we wish him and Julie well in the years ahead. Dr Pinney follows a long line of Medical Officers.



During 1850's Dr Alexander Kennedy signed Death Certificates of Laggan folk. Similarly through the 1860's Drs Alister S Robertson, John C Orchard, Peter MacDonald and Alexander MacKay were based in Kingussie, but Dr John McLeod stayed in Laggan Manse (now Mullach na Beinne) where his father was the minister. It is thought perhaps Dr Orchard was in charge, with others serving under him over a wide area. [Kingussie had 2 succeeding Dr Orchards till 1970's].

John C Orchard

Dr John MacRae, working only in Laggan, was first to live in Creag a Bhile, then built by Cluny Macpherson. Over the next 10 years came Dr K Campbell and Dr Hugo Kunz (see photo opposite).



In 1903 Dr Donald MacDonald arrived, famous for trekking through blizzards to treat gamekeeper John McCook, grandfather of the late Donnie Wilson, way down Loch Erichside, in Ben Alder Cottage. The old Laggan Hall was built c1931, in memory of Dr MacDonald, by grateful patients.

Dr Donald Mackay, a piper, was next in post. Inverness County Council took responsibility for the house from the abolished Parish Council.

Dr Josephine Shepherd followed 1942-52. Her husband writer John McNair Reid died 1954 and was buried in Laggan, as was Dr Josephine sometime later. Sadly her name was not added to the gravestone.



Dr Kenneth Mackay arrived at Creag a Bhile. His daughter Joey, now in Kingussie, married the late Ian MacGillivray, longtime manager of Cluny estate. Dr MacKay, a strict Free church man, ran the famous Laggan School of Piping, whose banner now hangs in the Hall. Pipe Major Chris Thomson was one of his last pupils.



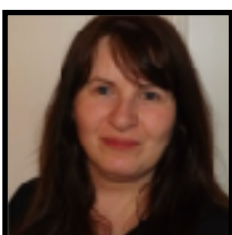
During the time of Dr Ian Richardson, a surgery was built onto the house. He and Joan had 6 Children and a very small Renault 4L car. In those pre seatbelt days, it was quite ok to have wee heads sticking out in every direction - including the roof. Properly trained paramedics were for the future, so Ian accompanied accident victims from the old A9, by helicopter, to hospital in Raigmore or Aberdeen - then had to find his own way home. He was a community activist, perhaps a man before his time. He set up a Laggan Community Association before Community Councils began. He could be a bit of a dictator. He fought with the Forestry Commission for years to acquire some management and ownership in the Strathmashie Forest - eventually with some success.

Then came a time with Dr 'Dram', John Forbes Proctor - a colourful character, who with wife Pattie Ann, drove around in a long nosed vintage Bentley. The best way to contact him was through the Gaskmore Hotel phone number.



Dr Donald Fraser became GP c1978. He and Janice were cross country skiers; he loved his garden, cooking, winemaking - raw garlic - oof! - and he was an expert in maintaining the first community TV mast on the Dun. He used one of the first brick-sized mobile phones which, at a function, he laid on a Hall window ledge for reception.

Retired, Dr Esme Lewin often stood in as a holiday locum. She was a descendant of the Mitchells who first brought the improved sheep to Badenoch, to Aberarder in late 1700's.



Following on for a time was Dr Karen Massey, who built a new house in Gergask Avenue, and now the Medical Practice is linked with that in Kingussie.

Jahama Highland Estate Glenshero

Jon Hart

Wildfires

The month of April brought with it some extreme wildfire warnings across Scotland with Scottish Fire & Rescue Service urging the public to avoid lighting fire outdoors. Our team at Glenshero were prepped and ready, luckily the various wildfires reported on our landholding were extinguished quickly resulting in very minimal damage. The team upped their presence in other popular local sites and politely updating the public on the risks whilst erecting various wildfire risk signs throughout the estate. At Glenshero in particular, we have adapted the CNPA guidelines of zero tolerance to campfires.

Beaver Project

We recently hosted Jonathan Willets, Beaver re-introduction project manager from Naturescot. He visited Glenshero in May where our staff had recently discovered evidence of beaver activity. It was a very good and informative meeting, hosted by Keith from our Hydro team, and we learnt a lot more about the re-introductions and what we can expect from beaver activity in the future. The evidence we found was a nibble on a larch branch (see attached image), which according to Jonathan is not their favourite meal, hence his interest in the subject.



Cairngorm farmers and Crofters Group

This spring we also hosted Spey valley residents and farmers John Macpherson and Ewen Grant, representing our local farmers and crofters' group. This too was an informative meeting. Discussions varied widely and included updates on our farming, woodland, peatland restoration and other environmental project updates, as well as a site visit to the Spey Dam so that we could explain how the dam operates and engage in constructive dialogue with our neighbours as to future flood mitigation.

British Dragon Fly society (BDS)

Three members of our team (including Kirstin from Glenshero) recently attended a three-day training event with the BDS. The event was part of our ongoing programme of watershed improvements and targeted the skills of dragonfly, damselfly identification so that we can improve our understanding of the condition of the habitats crucial to the survival of these species. Our peatland restoration programme remains underway at Glenshero with approximately 450 hectares completed to date, and with plans in place for additional restoration work to be continued later this year. Our thanks to Peatland Action for their support with this programme.



Golden Eagle Counts

Early indications are that the Golden eagle sites have not produced chicks this year, which is very sad. However, on a more positive note two of the chicks from Glenshero that were previously translocated as part of the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project are reported to be doing very well and are a major part of the contribution to the re-introduction of this iconic

and important bird of prey back into the borders and into Northern England. You can follow this story on the BBC, or by the SoSGE website.

Smolt Monitoring

The end of May saw the culmination of this seasons smolt monitoring project, in collaboration with the Spey Fisheries Board. Early signs are that the smolt run was again successful, but we are keen to learn more about the impact that the very dry spell, through late April and early May, has had on the numbers passing through the system.



Also, our work to improve the sluices in the salmon pass within the dam has been completed, as we work toward the 2027 river basin management plan deadline, set by the environmental regulator SEPA.

Lastly we enclose some comparative images of the positive growth of the native riparian woodlands planted at Am Maol, at the head of the river Spey near Shesnagn.



2017



2022



Mary MacDonald 1922 -2025



Born on November 15th 1922 and died on 1st March 2025 at the age of 102

Her father Daniel MacDonald was a lay preacher and both he and Mary's mother came from Eigg. Mary was one of six girls and spent most of her young days at Arnisdale where her father had taken a job as initially a Church of Scotland missionary but later with his love of the sea he managed the many boats for the Kitson family who lived at the Lodge.

When Mary was old enough she started taking local jobs, latterly with the Kitson family. She liked the family and at the end of the season she and a friend were asked to go south with them to their house in Midhurst. This was an exciting change of environment, they travelled south by train and stayed at Midhurst until the next stalking season in August 1939

Soon after that very luckily for me she saw an advertisement put in by my mother for some one to help at Ardverikie with her family of two boys and a third to come. Mary and her sister Rena both went and while she was there I was born in 1941

In 1942 she wanted to go nursing in Glasgow but there were no vacancies and she was eventually called up to join the Wrens in 1944 and specialised on the catering side. She was demobbed in 1946 and returned to work in the Glenspean Hotel where she was for some time becoming the Postie distributing letters from Tulloch Station by foot and bicycle.

She returned to Ardverikie when my mother asked if she would look after me while she went south to see my father who was on leave. Mary was with us from then on.

Mary and Donnie MacDonald were married in 1961 with a great party in the Kinlochlaggan Hall. Donnie had been living in Laggan but moved to Birch Cottage. Hamish and Maria were born in 1963 and 1965 both going to Kinlochlaggan School.

In 1975 on my Grandmother's death we moved into Aberarder Lodge and Mary came up to the cottage there. She was a great friend of my mother's although she was 15 years younger, they could absolutely rely on each other. They had their 90th and 75th together at Aberarder.

Hamish took his mother to his home at Murlaggan, after she fell and broke her hip while feeding the birds. Hamish and a local friend looked after Mary and friends and family continued to visit. However shortly after her 100th Birthday celebrations in Aberarder her health began to fail and spent the last two years of her life being well looked after in the Ballachulish Nursing home.

Mary was devoted to her own family particularly to Hamish and Maria, she kept in regular contact with her many cousins. Mary was a remarkable person. She had an incredible ability to

make friends and she seemed to know most people in the Highlands and their family history. Life was very social with her as friends and family would endlessly turn up in the kitchen and news would be passed - in a way that is unique to the Highlands.

You could talk to her about anything and she would have a very clear and distinctive view. She was a very strong character with the highest principles.

Mary was a really wonderful cook and baker and everyone who came to the house would remark on it. My whole family loved her and will always be grateful for all the kindnesses she showed us. She was a fundamental part of the community at Kinlochlaggan and all that went on there. The respect she was held in was demonstrated by the wonderful support that was shown at her funeral.

She was a very remarkable lady,

Andrew Feilden



Celebrating Mary's 100th Birthday

Laggan Church

Alison Armstrong

In the last edition of Laggan Matters we read about the closure of Laggan church as a Church of Scotland building. The good news is that the church continues to be a place of worship, thanks to the Laggan church partnership buying it and enabling different activities to take place there. Robert led an 'alternative' Christmas eve service, with lively carol singing starting in the Gergask Avenue, and ending in the church with a spur of the moment nativity play in a special atmosphere as the lights did not come on! You probably had to be there to appreciate it, but those who were loved it.

Fortnightly services have started on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6.30pm. These are shorter services with teas and coffees after, all are very welcome.

Easter Sunday saw us gathering for a service outside the village hall at 7.30am, (yes am!) followed by very welcome bacon rolls.



There are other plans for outdoor services in the long hot summer ahead of us.

Robert regularly sees local children in his visits to the primary school, and has met some on his visits to the youth group which met up until Easter.

If you have any queries or suggestions please contact Robert, he would love to hear from you R.Brookes@churchofscotland.org.uk

Laggan Church Update

Pete Moore

Our website (lagganchurch.org) is now up and running. Check it out and let us know if there is other information that you think we should add. One thing that we would like to do in due course, is to create a gallery of archive photographs featuring the church, initially from the Laggan Heritage collection, but if you have your own pictures and would be willing to share, we would be delighted to include them.

The website has information about the church and SCIO and has an 'availability' page on which details of bookings for the use of the building are entered. At the moment, aside of weddings and funerals, there are two series of worship services taking place on occasional Wednesdays and Sundays, through the Summer. Details are also posted on the notice board.

For the longer term, we have begun exploring the process of commissioning an options appraisal to help us understand the possibilities for future alterations and use of the church. We have started initial conversations with three architectural firms who will be drawing up scoping documents in the next few weeks that will advise us how much such a study will cost. Once we have some details of what these firms are suggesting and a cost for delivering a report, we hope to be able to select a preferred contractor to work with us all in the 'co-design' of the church's future. It will be a long process but be assured that the community will be at the heart of it.

Please contact us if you have any queries, or would like more information:
lagganchurchscio@gmail.com

Who's Who? C1965 Young Fishers



Left to right:

Robyn Richardson, Anna Richardson, Tiggy Richardson, Willie Laird Jr, Helen Richardson, Michael Sharp, Birdie Richardson and Rory Richardson

Ponies

Evie Walker

If you ever find yourself around Strathmashie Cottages you may come across two ponies, a pretty bay British riding pony mare and a little white and brown Shetland pony gelding, that would be Mouse and Rainbow. Mouse is the lovely mare I ride and is a dream come true even with her oddities, whilst Rainbow is the first pony I ever got. He was completely free, gotten more so as a companion for a pony that is sadly no longer here called Rocky, a little chestnut gelding that my parents got in Germany before I was even born and is the greatest animal I was ever lucky enough to know. He taught me most of the basics of riding and was the kindest



soul and will forever hold a special spot in my heart. Rainbow isn't good to be ridden so when I was younger I didn't do much with him, but as I got older that changed. I still didn't ride him, but I would go down to the field everyday around lunch and just be with him, whether it was running around the field with him, sitting eating lunch or reading. Every day I would see him and while Rainbow has had his difficulties in the past, now he is more an oversized dog than anything else.

Eventually my mum found an advert for a British riding pony, a gorgeous bay mare. She showed my dad and he looked over it pretty much once, then before I knew it I was in the car with my dad, the horse trailer with us and heading on a 3 day trip to Somerset just to pick up a 3 year old pony that hadn't even been ridden yet and without a clue on how this will all turn out. Yet that pony is now 6 years old, loves being ridden and the best pony I could ask for even with all the added quirks. Mouse, my cheeky. mint loving pony. She is in my life for a reason. I know it. She pushes me past my limit over and over again and even with the many times she's made me cry and question my skills, I refuse to give up because I know the moment I give her the hundred percent she wants, she'll reward me in the best way possible. Mouse has many traits and quirks both good and bad. Her stubbornness and curiosity, her mischief and bravery, though bravery isn't always the right word to describe her because on one hand she can walk past moving tractors, fire, plastic bags/tarps (a common thing horses often find scary), she has even had jets flying low over us and not blinked, yet this same pony will and has spooked at pine cones on the floor not moving, tree branches, the same fence she's seen several days in a row and pheasants. It is honestly embarrassing how many times I've fallen off because of those birds.

Rainbow and Mouse have a sweet but strange relationship. To put it simply Mouse is definitely the one in charge. The two will groom each other over a fence lovingly or Mouse will neigh hysterically if Rainbow even goes a little bit too far away without her, yet put the two in the same field and at some point Mouse will chase him around like she hates him then seconds later will be all sweet again. She never hurts Rainbow luckily. We go on lots of rides out, if it's quiet enough we'll head across the road to Wolftrax or head out on the track from Strathmashie to Spey Dam. I can't say Mouse has a favourite she simply enjoys exploring anywhere new and it's just a bonus if there's grass. Rainbow more often than not comes along with us more for the grass than anything else though I will warn you, if you ever do come across us out on a ride out and Rainbow is there, he has a tendency to just drop and roll no matter where he is even if that's the side of the road. Riding Mouse is almost always a big stress relief and even if she's being a little difficult I wouldn't trade her for the world. Same goes for Rainbow, they have both given me so much; Rainbow gave me a friendship that I will always cherish and Mouse though is still to this day making me work a little harder to earn her friendship and love completely, I am still so grateful for her, she has taught me so much and as a team we are just starting off, we have shows and competitions in our future and even more exploring and learning to do together and I couldn't be more grateful for her and all the other ponies I've met and known, and while I don't plan to ride professionally, in the future I know I will always have a pony with me.



Laggan Forest Trust Summer 2025

Forest Management Planning

One of the Trust's key roles is to provide feedback to Forest Land Scotland (FLS) on their management and activities that impact on the Strathmashie Forest estate in and around the Laggan Area. The next 10 year Forest management plan has still to be published and we still await that final document before being able to comment again on the intended felling plans - one of which was due to commence later this year.

Recent developments about SSEN's proposed preferred new transmission site to connect to the Loch an Earba Pumped storage scheme may equally create some disquiet within FLS to this 10 year plan and the Trust will be discussing this with FLS. We will provide any relevant feedback we receive from FLS to the Community Council. The presently preferred site will unfortunately be seen from the top of the Black and Upper Red mountain bike trails looking west and we will be making such representations.

Many in the community will know that the Community Council asked LFT if they could progress the Community's action plan priorities for all the paths around Laggan. A separate note on these activities is elsewhere in this Newsletter. This report will include progress on the "circularity" of existing paths and walking routes, improvements for others and what the priority "route" preferences are initially requested by the community.

Visitor Management

As Summer approaches, comments remain very positive about the new Blue Mountain Bike Trail, and there have also been some trail improvements undertaken in the past 3 weeks. There was a very successful, and busy, mountain bike event on 18th May. This was blessed with great weather and although not directly involved in organising the event, we do try to guide the organisers to be sensitive to the impact on the local area. We thank all local residents for their understanding. The car park remains busy and "unmonitored by FLS" despite our offer - supported by the Strathmashie residents - for the Trust to manage the car park in some way and we do provide feedback to FLS on any issues.

We should also highlight that the café is being staffed this year again by some very able young people from Strathmashie Cottages, all of whom are gaining very valuable experience in the hospitality sector and gaining a lot of confidence in their own capabilities. Along with the Bike Shop staff member, the Trust is able to fulfil one of core objectives - facilitate reliable local employment as a real living wage employer.

The AGM of the Trust took place on Monday June 2nd to approve the Trust's report and accounts for the year-ending September 2024, to hear updates on projects in the future and for members to ratify the appointment of the following directors - member directors David Narro and Donald Cowan, co-opted directors Colin Morgan and Megan Griffiths. Some of our previous directors stepped down at both the last AGM in 2024 and this one in 2025 due to their other business commitments - and we thank Angus Armstrong and Michael Sharp for their "stint" on the Trust board, in Michael's case - his second "stint" of almost 9 years.

Their insights were always much appreciated. Another member director was able to be appointed after the AGM and we welcome Pat Gallagher to the board of the Trust. At the AGM, the directors took the opportunity to record their sincere thanks to all the LFT office team and café staff for their invaluable efforts to ensure a warm welcome to Laggan for many who come to visit the area in general, the Trails specifically and the Centre's information boards.

As ever, if you have any comments or suggestions on any aspect of LFT or FLS activities, please send us your views to the Laggan Forest Trust office – support@lagganforest.com

On behalf of The Laggan Forest Trust

Paths

The Laggan Forest Trust has been asked by the Laggan Community Council to lead a project to assess and improve the network around Laggan.

A steering group was formed, which has completed a first approach as to which paths in the area the Community would like to see improved. A series of paths were identified with a couple of priority projects selected.

A first approach was completed via a desk exercise and discussions with residents aimed at identifying ownership of the land where some paths are located and to assess the condition of these paths. In addition, initial discussions have taken place with the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Forestry and Land Scotland to make them aware of the community's desire to improve the local paths network.

During a first phase, the plan is to produce an audit of the existing paths network, gathering, for example, as much information as possible, such as: ownership, path and surface conditions, existing interpretation and signage, main users, accessibility, existing and type of gates, fences, etc. This audit would be used to produce an action plan for the paths that need it.

On Thursday 5th June, a community event was carried out to find out the community's views on some of the paths in question. There was a special consultation on how the play park in the village could be improved. This was a very popular event, and we gathered a good number of views on how residents would like to see the play park develop. We will be working with landowners and the community's views to assess what is feasible to take forward. Later in the summer, we intend to have produced a concept design for the community to see and comment on. At the same time, a path audit with an action plan should be ready. The next steps should include a plan for delivering some of the improvements that some of our local paths need.

Cristian Pizarro
Business Development Officer
The Laggan Forest Trust

What's On in Laggan July to November 2025

Helping Hands Cream Tea Thursday 3rd July

- Thursday 3rd July
- 2.30 to 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 21st July

- Monday 21st July
- 6.30pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Margaret's Ceilidh Saturday 2nd August

- Saturday 2nd August
- 7.00 for 7.30pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 15th September

- Monday 15th September
- 6.30pm
- Venue to be confirmed

Helping Hands Jumble Sale Saturday 11th October

- Saturday 11th October
- 10am to 12 noon
- Laggan Community Hall
- Teas and coffees
- Cash only please
- For donating items of clothing etc. contact jillvn@aol.com
- Only one bag per household please.



Scan QR Code
for further details

Stronelairst & Dunmaglass Wind Farms Scholarship Fund opens 1st June 2025

Are you studying a STEM course at university?

The **Stronelairst & Dunmaglass Scholarship Fund** supports individuals pursuing higher education in **Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM)**.

You could receive an award of **£5,000 towards your student loan**. To be eligible for funding you must have a home address in one of the 7 community council areas:

- Stratherrick & Foyers
- Strathdearn
- Strathnairn
- Laggan
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston
- Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry
- Glengarry



Application Deadline: 13th September 2025



Apply and find guidance at:

www.sserenewables.com/communities/scholarships-and-skills-funds

For further information contact:

carol.masheter@sse.com

0772 144 3044



Stronelairst Community Fund

Applications are invited from community groups serving the **Laggan** area. If you have a project idea that you wish to discuss, please contact:

Carol Masheter carol.masheter@sse.com

07721 443044

Closing date— 31st July 2025

For guidance and to make an apply visit:

[https://www.sserenewables.com/
communities/community-fund-
locations/great-britain/stronelairst/](https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/stronelairst/)



Laggan Community Council

Karen Thew

Your community needs you.

Laggan Community is seeking to establish a Community Development Trust (CDT) and are looking for members to take this project forward. The CDT will independently manage the funding that comes to the community from SSE or any other source of community benefit. It is the ideal structure for supporting, managing and hosting community projects as it has broad purposes, extensive powers, can employ staff and has the ability to hold and manage physical and financial assets. Additionally, as a Development Trust there would be an opportunity to employ and pay for via the fund/s, a Development Officer who could then look for other sources of funding and grants for the community and manage the projects. The Community Council do not have the powers to under these kind of activities.

The current SSE fund is managed on our behalf by SSE and we do not benefit from any interest payment on that money. Currently there is an SSE panel who review applications for SSE funding and work under the guidance of SSE who manage the physical "bank account" on behalf of the community.

We are looking for a diverse group to become our Trustees and are particularly keen to have younger members in the Trust as we look to the future development of the Laggan community.

There is no limit on the number of members we can have but in order to form a CDT we do require a minimum of 20 as dictated in our newly drawn up Constitution. There are no qualifying factors to becoming a member so please don't think that you can't be included. Additionally, we are looking for a group of Trustees with a minimum number of 5 and a maximum of 12. Neither members nor the trustees will have any liability in respect of the CDT, but you will have a say in how the CDT runs.

We need people who in the first instance would be willing to commit to a regular meeting, probably monthly, to ensure the smooth running of the Trust.

The Laggan Community Development Trust would setup as a SCIO - a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. As a charity the Trustees will have to have responsibilities in accordance with OSCR, the regulatory body for Scottish charities. Please take a look at the OSCR website, it is quite extensive, but it does cover everything that we would be expected to do as a charity. <http://www.oscr.org.uk/> We have been working alongside VABS (Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey), who can provide support and guidance in setting up and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Would you be available to join us for an informal chat on 7th July at 18.30 in Laggan Village Hall? We should be able to answer any questions that you may have and provide more information about the proposed Development Trust. Without your help and input we may not be able to achieve our goal, so we look forward to seeing you soon.

Contact Information

Church of Scotland

Contact: RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk

Telephone 07555750915

Community Website

www.laggan.com

Laggan Community Council

Contact: info@laggan.com chairlcc@laggan.com secretarylcc@laggan.com or
treasurerlcc@laggan.com

Laggan Community Hall

Contact: cathyslimon@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone 01528 544309

Laggan Community Housing Ltd

Contact: Angus Macpherson

Telephone: 01528 544200

am@t2e.co.uk

Laggan Forest Trust

Contact: business@lagganforest.com

www.lagganforest.com

Telephone: 01528 544366

Laggan Heritage

Contact: info@lagganheritage@gmail.com