

LAGGAN MATTERS

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

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March to July 2026

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Welcome to Laggan Matters

'Nothing on behalf of the people without the agreement of the people'.



Welcome to the spring 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 Trevor Warner within the Laggan Parish

If you have a photo you'd like to include in this feature, email it to jillvn@aol.com

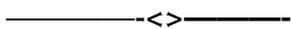
Answer to last issue's photo:-

Cluny Macpherson Memorial Cairn on the Glentruim road





‘THIS CAIRN STANDS WITHIN VIEW OF CREAG DHUBH TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF EWAN MACPHERSON OF CLUNY, COLONEL OF THE BADENOCH MEN IN THE ‘FORTY-FIVE RISING’, A SPOKESMAN AT THE JACOBITE WAR COUNCIL AT DERBY, A LEADER AT THE SKIRMISH AT CLIFTON IN CUMBERLAND, AT THE BATTLE OF FALKIRK, AND IN THE ATHOLL RAID AND LAST JACOBITE FUGITIVE TO REACH FRANCE (JUNE 1755). CHIEF OF THE CLAN MACPHERSON (1746-1764). BORN AT NUIDE 11 FEBRUARY 1706 - DIED AT DUNKIRK 30 JANUARY’



THIS PIECE OF GROUND WAS GENEROUSLY GIFTED BY EUAN L.R.MACPHERSON OF GLENTRUIM. THE CAIRN WAS BUILT WITH ROCK FROM BADENOCH AND FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD WHERE MACPHERSONS AND THEIR SEPTS HAVE SETTLED.



Remembrance Sunday 2025



Around 30 members of the Laggan community gathered at the Laggan War Memorial on Sunday 9th November to commemorate and remember those from the Community who had served and fallen in wars around the globe in the past century.

As ever a poignant morning and the newly laid upgraded path made access to the memorial much easier and safer for everyone.

Five wreaths were laid, from left to right:

- Laggan Community Council - on behalf of the young
- The Highland Council
- Laggan Community Council - on behalf of the Ex-Servicemen of Laggan
- Laggan & Newtonmore St. Bride's Church
- Badenoch Shinty Memories

Several folk gathered at Laggan Church afterwards for coffee and bacon rolls which were kindly provided by Sheena Slimon.

Poppy Scotland 2025

Thank you to Laggan Wolfrax and Laggan Coffee Bothy for having collection boxes during the lead up to Remembrance Sunday.

The sum raised was £70.39p

Valerie Machperson



Laggan Church

Alison Armstrong

Church of Scotland services continued at their new winter time of 2pm on alternate Wednesdays throughout November and December. We are grateful to Laggan Church Partnership for continuing to let us meet in the church.



For Christmas the church was decorated with a festive tree and lots of lights and flowers. We enjoyed a carol service on 10th Dec and a Christmas Eve service which began with singing in Gergask Avenue .



Photos courtesy of Fiona Grant

There were no services in January, afternoon ones restarted on Wednesday Feb 11th at 2pm and will run until the end of March on the 2nd and Fourth Wednesdays of the month. Plans for Easter will be advertised nearer time.

Everyone is always welcome to these services with tea and coffee after, and Robert is always happy to hear from anyone , please feel free to contact him on 07555 750 915 RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk





Alister and Beryl Macrae's family have placed a bench outside Laggan Church in their memory.

Laggan Church Partnership

Pete Moore

We've had a quiet spell at the church, but have been steadily busy outside.

Church of Scotland Services took place over Christmas and the initial service by the Episcopalian Lay Reader - which was to take place on the first Sunday of the month - was cancelled in January, due to the winter weather.

As for Laggan Church Partnership, the trustees and other interested folk met with two architect firms before Christmas to hear proposals from them as to how they would handle the refurbishment of the church.

We received details of examples of their other work and also saw these presented by the firms - some beautiful conversions. But alongside their undoubted design skills, we were keen to hear the proposals as to how they would engage with our community to seek input and views and to gather and translate the feelings of Laggan folk. We are in the process of signing up to one of those firms and will be able to reveal more next time.

In other news, we have a new sign outside the church, replacing the previous heading which of course described the building as a Church of Scotland - this has caused a little bit of confusion in the last year so we now have a new heading to the noticeboard.

We have been fortunate that the old, dead elm tree, standing to the west of the church, seems to have survived another winter. We are particularly concerned about the damage it could cause were it to come down across the wall and the gravestones. One year down the line of raising this with the Council, they and the Roads folk still seem to be discussing who owns the land upon which the tree stands.

Creag Meagaidh

Rory Richardson



Winter has been in full swing at Creag Meagaidh National Nature Reserve with a large covering of snow over the last few weeks, making for stunning scenery around the reserve. Our hardy highland cattle are well suited to these frosty conditions and have enjoyed moving to greener pasture around the reserve for better grazing. As the herd has grown over time, we are looking to move some to a new home.

We have once again enjoyed the visits of students from Kingussie High School, getting involved with lots of different activities around the reserve, including helping to keep the cattle fed, assisting with the processing of venison, and setting up the seed boxes that they had constructed earlier in the year for Forest and Land Scotland and The Glenmore Visitor Centre.



Creag Meagaidh has welcomed two new volunteers to lend a hand over the winter season into the spring. They have previously studied conservation and have joined us to pick up some new skills. So far, the volunteers have completed a course in food hygiene and processing for catering, allowing them to get involved with the venison packaging and sales, which keeps us busy this time of year. As the weather hopefully improves into spring (fingers crossed!) they hope to plant some trees and start on some conservation and monitoring projects of their own.

The Community Deer Stalking Pilot is well underway, contributing to improving the skills of local people to allow them to assist the reserve in managing deer numbers. We hope to continue working alongside the local community as this project continues and develops.

The recent stormy weather has knocked down a few trees within our alder wood, however this deadwood makes for perfect living conditions for our critters and fungi that are essential to the woodland ecosystem.

Laggan - Community Development Trust

Some time back there was a community meeting to discuss distribution of money from the SSE renewables fund. At that time two options were suggested, a simple local panel to approve applications for funds or to create our own community development trust. The second option seemed too big a step so a panel was formed and has been operating since.

With the possibility of other renewable energy projects in the area resulting in further funds unrelated to SSE it became necessary to establish a community development trust. In July last year the community was asked for folks willing to form an interim board for a new trust. This information was circulated by Laggan Community Council via email and also printed in Laggan Matters. Sufficient people came forward to enable an interim board to be established and Laggan Community Development Trust was formed. The board have been working hard and we are excited to report that we have approval from OSCR to become a registered charity with the name

Laggan Community Development Trust

with

Charity Number: SC 0548810

along with all the oh so exciting administrative work like setting up bank accounts, establishing registered address, looking at insurance and . . . yawn . . . zzzz. Whilst all this is essential to the workings of the trust it is not why we are really here - what we all really want to do is see Laggan thrive and to help enable opportunities for groups and organisations. Here is how we have summarised what we hope to do:

- Ask the local community what they think the needs and priorities are. This will then inform the direction of our activities.
- Encourage and support constituted groups to make direct funding applications to the SSE panel and other sources of funding to further their aims and ambitions.
- Encourage ad hoc groups to apply for funds through the trust for their specific projects.
- In time we will look to the bigger picture for local development opportunities within the defined purposes and hope to employ a community development worker within the next year.

What does this mean? Well if you have a project for the benefit of the community or are a group that may be in need of help and need money then come and speak with us, we can help you with applications. If you are a constituted group (have your own bank account) then you would make the application in your own name. But if you are more of an ad hoc group then we can make an application on your behalf and handle the money side. The requirement is that the money is needed for charitable aims and that it will benefit the Laggan community.

The current interim board is made up of the following people:

Angus Armstrong
Amanda Gallagher
Patrick Gallagher
Nathan Grant
Tony Groom
Karen Thew

All these positions will be up for election at the first AGM which will be held in early 2027 to allow the interim board to get the organisation established and get all the main administrative stuff in place.

We hope the entire Laggan Community will join us. Membership is open to anyone 16 and over, living in the Laggan community. PLEASE get in touch with our secretary at secretary@laggancdt.org expressing your willingness. This commits you to nothing, but the greater our numbers the stronger we are. Every member of each household should join and we are hoping to reach 250 members. You will then be kept in touch with what is going on. We hope to hold a meeting with all groups, constituted and ad hoc in early Spring when we will be able to say more about what we are and explain what we can do. Later in the summer we also hope to hold an open community wide event, possibly a BBQ, along similar lines. We hope folks will catch the vision and be as excited for Laggan's future as we are.

Angus Armstrong , Chair of the Interim Committee

Laggan Community Council

Christmas, a long time ago now! The lighting up ceremony of the trees in the village went well (a couple of technical issues but nothing that we couldn't fettle) and we would like to once again thanks all of the volunteers who helped with the tree lights and decorations, to Zoie Grant for being the switcher on er, and of course to Sonya and Kevin and team at the Laggan Coffee Bothy for their kind hospitality once again.

You may have noticed that the new kids are now arriving thick and fast. Thankfully the long awaited signs are now in place and this might just give drivers more of a warning about them than in previous years and keep the animals a bit safer.

On the subject of roads and road safety, the Glentruim road has been designated a shared space. With that comes a new speed restriction of 40mph. Thanks to everyone who was involved in bringing this plan to fruition.

We are really pleased that the Laggan Community Development Trust is now up and running.

Looking forward to the year ahead and all it may bring.

Amanda and Karen

How We Were....

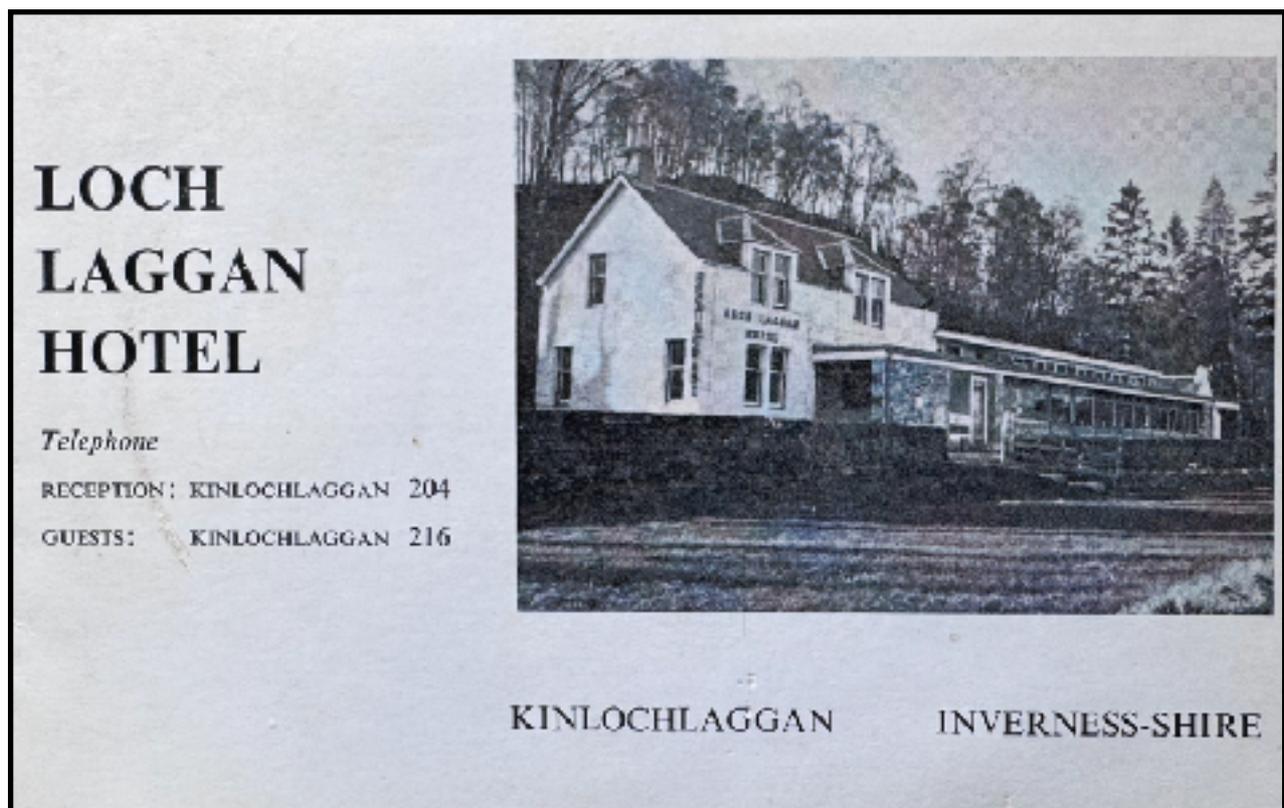
As told to Laggan Matters

Anne Watt (nee Campbell) left Kingussie High School at the end of the Christmas term in 1960 aged 15. The following March she went to work at the Loch Laggan Hotel. Staff were given accommodation in the grounds, so Anne shared a chalet with her colleagues.

Every couple of weeks all estate workers went along to Kinloch Laggan Village Hall for a Social / Games Night. Here they played darts, cards, pool, board games and there was music as well as tea and coffee.

On her days off she would walk back home to Sherramore past Mariah's Gate and through what is now a fallow deer park. To speed the journey and keep herself amused, she would alternate between walking from one telegraph pole and running to the next one all the way.

When Anne first started working there she was paid £4 a week and after a pay rise ended up on £5 a week before leaving a year later in 1962. She went on to work at the Royal Hotel in Kingussie where she was paid £8 week.



Tariff

Weekly Terms — — £21 per person	Morning Coffee — 2/6 per person
Bed and Breakfast — 37/6 per person	Lunches — — — 13/6 per person <i>Coffee extra</i>
CHILDREN	
To 1 yr. — — — — No Charge	Afternoon Teas — 4/6 per person
From 1 to 2 yrs. — — 10/- per day	Dinners — — — — 20/- per person <i>Coffee inclusive</i>
From 3 to 6 yrs. — — Half Charge	Packed Lunches — 8/6 per person
From 7 to 12 yrs. — Two Thirds Charge	Breakfast — — — 8/6 per person
	We do not provide High Tea other than by special arrangement.

Loch Laggan Hotel 10% Service Charge **1970**

LOCH LAGGAN HOTEL * * * *

Fully ~~Modernized~~ ~~Rebuilt~~ ~~Unfurnished~~
 Central Heating in all Public Rooms
 Chairs contain four separate rooms all with H. and C. and Fan Heating
 Garage and Filling Station attached to Hotel
 Ample free parking space
 GIFT SHOP AND CAFE/TEA-Room

* * * *offers you the perfect holiday*

On the shores of Loch Laggan it offers all the facilities for a perfect holiday — be it Touring, Angling, Boating, Climbing or relaxing country walks.

18 hole golf course 25 minutes from Hotel

Shooting and fishing licenses for a variety of seasons

Bed and Breakfast £1.47 plus 10%
 Inclusive weekly terms £24.45 plus 10%

Approximate Mileages

The hotel is situated on the main Newtonmore to Spean Bridge Road, coming from the South, branch left after Dalwhinnie and left again at the T-junction marked for Spean Bridge at Laggan Bridge.

<i>Edinburgh</i>	120
<i>Glasgow</i>	130
<i>Kyle of Lochalsh</i>	80
<i>Perth</i>	73
<i>Inverness</i>	60
<i>Fort William</i>	30
<i>Aviemore</i>	30
<i>Newtonmore</i>	15

Designed and Printed by Highland Printers Ltd., Dirlebought Road, Inverness

The Cailleach Ruadh

Graham Grant

In 1811, Mrs Grant of Laggan wrote in her 'Essays on the Superstitions of the Highlanders..' of a woman who lived around Lochan Uvie and Creag Dubh. Here were conical hillocks clothed in dwarf birch, and beautiful lochans richly fringed with waterlilies, while above frowned darkly the lofty solemn rock from which rolled portions of shivered stone creating echoing noises. "Beauty sleeping in the lap of horror".

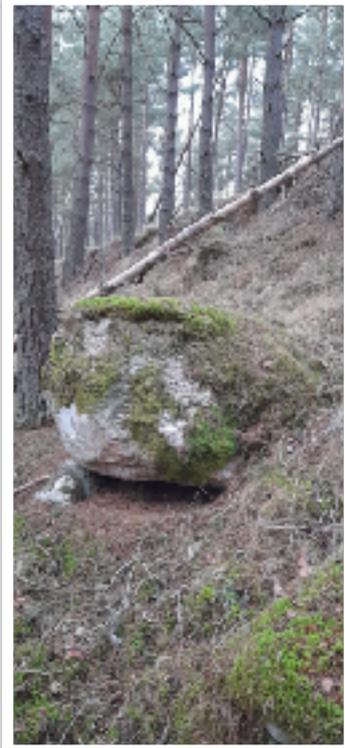
Travellers proceeding on the very narrow path on the lochan side could not but imagine fairies. In fact they rarely passed without meeting a meagre and haggard redhaired woman, known and shunned for over a century as the Cailleach Ruadh.

When young she had the charms to attract a lover who, due to some family animosity, was attacked and killed by her brother. She buried him among the hillocks and she left her home. For long years she wandered across the hillocks and rocks, appearing and vanishing through the woods. If she died her ghost continued to silently disturb her estranged family.

Eventually on a beautiful day the Laggan minister organised a joint open air church service when the Laggan and Kingussie people met halfway on the parish march at Lochan Uvie. This was highly successful, all returning home in excellent frame of mind, thereafter affirming that it was impossible that the Cailleach Ruadh should ever again profane that place.

The 1st OS map, c1870 shows, at the edge of the old turnpike running west above Auchmore, the Clach (Stone) na Cailleach Ruadh.





The track has been widened for forestry work, but the photo shows a nearby big stone. Also, a smaller stone lies on the verge of the A86, having rolled down through the fence from above. Perhaps one of these is the stone where Cluny Macpherson told the map surveyor that the Cailleach “performed great wonders”



The Workers 23rd Psalm

Author unknown

The union is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
 It maketh me to lie down on my job.
 It leadeth me beside still factories,
 It restoreth my Insurance benefits,
 Yea though I walk through the shadow of my decreasing
 productivity,
 I feel no recriminations, for the union is with me.
 It's restrictive practices and shop stewards comfort me,
 It prepareth a works committee for me, in the presence of my
 employer.
 It anointeth my hands with pay rises,
 My bank balance over runneth.
 Surely higher purchasers and union dues shall follow me all
 the days of my working life,
 And I shall dwell in a council house for ever.

Amen

Anne Watt's father had a copy of this way back in the 1970/80's - "so what has changed from then until now?"

Laggan Helping Hands



The Helping Hands Team

As always, we are very grateful to everyone who supports our tea afternoons along with any other events we run throughout the year. The donations we receive are very much appreciated, and all money is spent within the local community.

Our final afternoon tea of 2025 was Christmas themed with crackers and and some Christmas goodies.



Our Jumble took place on Saturday February 14th and was a great success. We raised £275 and all monies raised will go towards our Defibrillator funds including purchasing new batteries and pads. Thank you again for your support and we look forward to seeing you in March for our next afternoon tea.

Also a huge thank you to our friends in Newtonmore who come along to all our events. We love seeing you.



What's On in Laggan November 2025 to March 2026

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 16th March

- Monday 16th March
- 6.30pm
- Wolftrax

Helping Hands Afternoon Tea Thursday 26th March

- Thursday 26th March
- 2.30 - 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Helping Hands Afternoon Tea Thursday 23rd April

- Thursday 23rd April
- 2.30 to 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall

• Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 18th May

- Monday 18th May
- 6.30pm - Venue to be confirmed

Helping Hands Afternoon Tea. Thursday 28th May

- Thursday 28th May
- 2.30 to 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 15th June AGM

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

Helping Hands Afternoon Tea Thursday 25th June

- Thursday 25th June
- 2.30 to 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall

The Laggan Forest Trust Spring 2026

Forest Management Planning

The 2024-2034 10 year Forest management plan remains unpublished although we understand that preparations are being made to build some new haul routes within the local forest estate for future timber felling. The Trust was equally disappointed at the present outcome of SSEN's plans for a new transmission site which will be seen from the top of the Black and Upper Red mountain bike trails looking west.

Local Paths Management - in conjunction with Laggan Community Council's (LCC) 2022 Community Action Plan

The Laggan Path Audit report is imminent now and should be handed to the LCC in Spring. This will be followed by a working plan - to be finalised and agreed - to take forward the potential improvements that have been identified. As a reminder, 2 projects have already been completed for paths in the Balgowan area woods and up to the Laggan War Memorial in time for Armistice Sunday in November 2025.

The SSE Stronelaig Community Benefit Fund has approved funding to progress a concept design report for the Village play park area. This will look to evaluate the ideas collected from the consultation process from 2025 and fit them into a visual design in agreement with the landowners - Laggan Community Housing Ltd. The project will also have some financial support from CNPA.

The SSE fund has also funded training in bike mechanics for three members of staff at the Laggan Wolfrax Centre. This project has also been supported by the Cairngorm Trust and LFT. After the qualification courses have been completed in early spring, the Laggan Wolfrax Bike Shop will offer residents a free bike-safety check this year.

Visitor Management

As spring approaches, we hope for improved weather to allow visitors to Laggan and the Forest Trail Centre to experience what our area has to offer. We continue to expect the Wolfrax café and bike shop to be staffed by our very able young people from Strathmashie Cottages, all of whom will be gaining valuable experience in the hospitality sector, some in bike mechanics and gaining a lot of confidence in their own capabilities. Facilitating reliable local employment is one of the core objectives of the Trust.

The board continue to give 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



Would you be interested in becoming a member of the Laggan Community Fund Panel?

The Panel is a voluntary group of local people who meet 3 times a year to make decisions on applications made to the Stronelairg Community Fund for the Laggan area.

SSE are keen to hear for anyone who lives, volunteers or works within the Laggan Community Council area interested in joining the panel.

For further details or to request a nomination form contact:
Carol Masheter T: 07721 443044 E: carol.masheter@sse.com

Closing Date – 10th April 2026





The Stronelairst Community Fund for Laggan

Grants available for £1,001 - £25,000 for the benefit of the local community. Applications for over £25,000 will be considered for strategic projects - contact the SSE Community Investment Manager (below) in the first instance if you are considering this.

FUND TIMETABLE

The timetable for applications to Stronelairst Community Fund for the Laggan, area:

Deadline	Panel Meeting
31 March 2026	End of May 2026
31 July 2026	End of September 2026
30 November 2026	End of January 2027

To learn the priorities for the funding and how to apply: <https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/stronelairst/>

Or to discuss a potential project please contact:

Carol Masheter T: 07721 443044 E: carol.masheter@sse.com

Outdoor First Aid and Bikeability Course

FREE Outdoor First Aid Training and Bikeability Course

For: 11-17 year olds

Where: Laggan Wolftrax

When: Saturday 7th and 21st March 2026

Time: 10am - 4pm

Please bring lunch and snacks plus extra layers as some elements will be outside

First aid to be held on 7th and **Bikeability** on the 21st (bring bike and helmet)

A free first aid kit and bike tool for every participant

Fully funded by YLAG

Limited spaces please contact Tony Groom to register or more info

tonygroom@hotmail.co.uk

Whatsapp: 07834911608



Information

Church of Scotland

Contact: RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk

Telephone 07555750915

Community Website

www.laggan.com

Laggan Church Partnership

Contact: lagganchurchscio@gmail.com

Laggan Community Council

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

Laggan Community Development Trust

Contact: secretary@laggancdt.org

Laggan Community Hall

Contact: Clarefalconer73@gmail.com

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: lagganheritage@gmail.com