

LAGGAN MATTERS

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

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July to November 2026

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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 Pete Davis 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 editions of Where is it?

Cluny Square - commemorating The last Horsedrawn Mail Coach in Britain which used to run from Kingussie to Tulloch Station until May 1915.



Badenoch Garden Club

Hazel Narro

Badenoch Gardening Club held their annual Spring Bulb Show on 25th March. It was a very cold snowy day, however over 20 members brought pots of bulbs, daffodils, and spring flowers in vases. Hazel Narro won Best in Show and was presented with a beautiful spring flower collage by Sue Thomas which was made by local artist Carole Gutteridge.



The aim of the club is to encourage and increase members' enjoyment of gardening. The club meet monthly in the lesser Newtonmore Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. All welcome and you don't need to have a garden!

More details from badenochgardeningclub@gmail.com

Facebook.com/Badenoch Gardening Club/

Our club has been going strong for over 30 years and remains the only gardening club in Badenoch and Strathspey. We're a very friendly group - and there's always a cuppa. Visitors pay £2.50 per meeting. Annual membership is £12 and all monthly meetings are free for members thereafter.

Gardening at 250 metres above sea level brings unique and challenging conditions throughout the year. Our members have a wealth of local knowledge to help you make the most of your highland garden, no matter the weather.

We have guest speakers who cover a wide range of gardening topics, a plant Bring and Buy in May where you can bring your excess plants or cuttings and find something new for your garden. The annual outing is usually in June (this year at the end of May). It's a fun day trip to visit beautiful gardens both private and public and garden centres, complete with lunch and a bit of retail therapy.

The Annual Show is in August. Our highly successful Produce, Flower and Plant Show is the highlight of the year, showcasing the incredible variety of what can be grown in your local area. This year it will be held in St Bride's Church, Newtonmore, on 22nd August at 2pm.

Schedules with entry forms will be available in the Coffee Bothy, Laggan. Anyone can enter whether it's a house plant in a pot or a hanging basket, home-made preserves, or baking. There is a huge range of categories, something for everyone including children. All school children including High School can enter for free. A fee of £3 for adults covers any number of entries.

Laggan Church

Alison Armstrong

Early on Easter Sunday morning a group met for a short service in the stunning Free Church ruins at the Monarch, as the sun rose casting its rays on the snowy white ground. For a few moments the world felt at peace.

Our thanks go to Jackie and Chris for hosting and providing very welcome hot drinks inside after.



Services in Laggan church continue on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6pm. These are short services, followed by teas and coffee, every always very welcome, even if you can only come once in a while.

Robert is always willing to chat with anyone and can be contacted at RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk or 07555 750915

Laggan Church Partnership

Pete Moore

I reported last time that the committee had met with two architects firms before Christmas with a view to selecting one of them to undertake the necessary survey work of the building structure. Their task will be to hold consultations with the Laggan Community, to collate and develop ideas for the future use of the Church and consider what options are for the necessary changes within the building itself.

Having identified our preferred candidate for this work, we applied for funding from the SSE / Stronelaig Windfarm Communities Fund, to seek funds to cover the costs of this first (and most important) phase of the work and hope to hear the outcome of that application in the next short while.

So, it is a waiting game until we hear the outcome. With a bit of luck our application will be successful and you will see and hear a lot more action locally, as we begin a round of consultation to help develop the plans. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries in the meantime.

Laggan Helping Hands

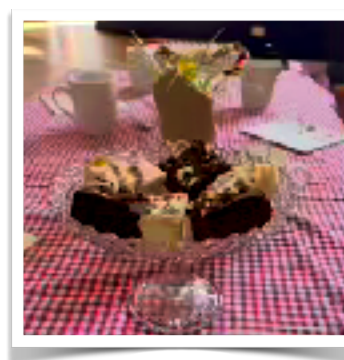
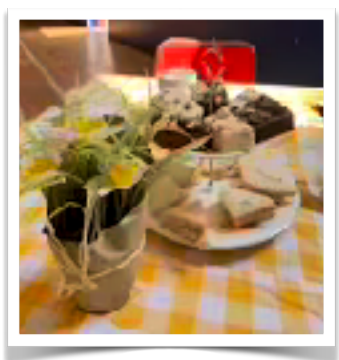


The Helping Hands Team

Afternoon Teas:

Our Easter Cream Tea was very popular and everyone asked us to say a huge thank you to Hazel and Valerie for their delicious scones.

This was followed by afternoon tea in June. We will be taking our summer break in July and August.



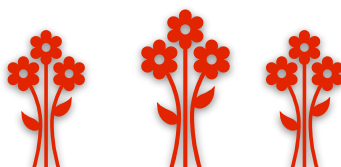
For our next event we will be holding a 'Haggis Drive' on Saturday 26th September at 6pm. See the 'What's On' section on page 22 for more details ...

Food Share Shed:

We are delighted to see the Food Share Shed is being used, particularly as we live so far from the nearest shop! We continue to monitor it and top it up regularly to ensure there is something for locals and visitors alike. Thanks to those who also contribute food items too.

If you do see something inappropriate or out of date before we do, please feel free to remove it and put it in the bin next to the shed!

Thanks for your supporting us in everything we do for our community.



A Ballot Box In Flames

Graham Grant

On Election Day in May, Jill our efficient editor requested well in advance, copy for this summer edition of 'Laggan Matters'. This brought to mind the story of the Bye Election of 1895 in Laggan. Then, many southern and even Irish newspapers, the social media of the day, perhaps seeking a scandal, published articles on -----

"Extraordinary Incident in Laggan" "Burning of Voting Papers" "Is the Election Valid?"

The Inverness Courier quickly responded to these greatly exaggerated and incorrect articles with **'The Mishap in Laggan'** which in essence says:

At 8pm the Polling Station in Gergask School closed and the officials and the Police Constable proceeded to count the ballot papers and fill in the various returns. The ballot box had then to be locked and sealed with hot wax. Although the Presiding Officer warned the Clerk to be careful, the lid caught fire and 'smoke was seen to be rising from the interior'. The officer opened the box, smothered the fire with his hands and immediately the box was relocked and resealed. A telegram, and then a full report was sent to the Inverness Returning Officer along with the box.

Sheriff Ivory and the candidates thereafter met and agreed that Laggan officials had done all they could as it was found that there was 'no guard below the lid of the box, in the way that most ballot boxes were protected'.

"The votes deposited in the box numbered 107....only 2 votes had been sacrificed and....in any case the result of the election would have been decisive beyond question for Mr Baillie's majority numbered six times the total poll at Gergask".



At the 1895 election only men aged 21yrs and over, who lived in certain types of housing, had the vote. No women.

Victorious candidate, James EB Baillie, Dochfour, (pictured left), was a member of the Unionist Party. He held the seat till 1900. The loser was Donald MacRae of the Gladstonian Liberals.

Baillie's uncle, James Evan Baillie had bought large parts of Badenoch in the 1830's, including Glenshero and Strathmashie. The family still perhaps owns areas in Kingussie.

Remembering Sally Spencer

Campbell Simon

We remember Sally in Laggan Heritage with fondness. Her contribution to the Millenium Hall Quilt was the outstanding Cluny Castle image, whilst one of the Church kneeling cushions was also an example of her undoubted skill as a seamstress.

The other Community effort for the Millenium and the creation of Laggan Heritage was "Laggan's Legacy". Here Sally contributed a most detailed and interesting account of Cluny Estates history. So detailed, in fact, that it had to be severely edited to match the rest of the contributions!

Historic Scotland had to bow to Sally's superior knowledge about the architecture of Cluny Castle when the owner wanted to bring it back to its original design, Andrew Carnegie having made alterations a century before.

A very active member of the Heritage, she was involved in several of the many projects. Most notably along with Anne Watt and Isobel Geddes, in the recording and mapping of all the gravestones in the church-yard and she undertook to record all the other graveyards in the Parish.

Sally carried out her own project of mapping out the lime-kilns that go through the Parish and recording farming war-time memories and then hosting an evening of appreciation for the contributors with her marvellous culinary skills, and she was always most generous in her contributions of baking to any function with which she was involved.

On her own initiative she updated the Laggan telephone book, for which we were all grateful. After Alister and Beryl Macrae retired from touring the Parish with poppies, Sally took over and for many years would appear undaunted at your door on a dark and stormy November night. Laggan owes a large debt to a truly wonderful lady.



David Norman Miller

Dawn Cheyne-Miller



Born David Norman Miller to David and Annie on the 4th of August 1947, Norman liked to remind us that he shared his birthday with the late Queen Mother - which, he felt, made him rather close to royalty.

Norman had an elder brother, Jim, and the family home was on Gergask Avenue. His parents worked for the Gillies family at the Laggan General Store. In time, Davey and Annie went on to buy the shop themselves, and the family moved into the accommodation above it.

Norman attended school with Jim at Gergask, where he particularly excelled at maths, before moving on to Kingussie Secondary School. It was there that a young Miss Robertson in the year below quickly caught his eye.

As a teenager, Norman enjoyed helping out the Porters at Coul Farm. After leaving school, he found employment with the Forestry Commission. At the same time, Trena was working as a live-in nanny for the Forbes-Leiths at Danachton. The young couple married in 1968 - a marriage that would endure for 57 years. They made their home in Strathmashie and later that year welcomed their first son, David. Steven followed in 1970, and then the baby - and favourite - Kevin in 1973. They spent many happy years in Strathmashie, surrounded by great friends and neighbours.

Every summer, the family enjoyed caravan holidays to various locations across Scotland. Kevin remembers a particularly midge-infested visit to Findhorn. Norman, too, sometimes - not always successfully - attempted activities with the boys. David recalls a fishing trip to the dam at Laggan where, after rowing just two metres out, Jim was asked to bring the wee boat back to shore - because Norman decided, fishing was better from dry land.

Norman held several jobs over his working life. After the Forestry Commission, he worked on the A9 with Shanks & McEwan, for Sandy Gillies at Dalwhinnie Tippers, and for Morrisons during the construction of the new Laggan Bridge. Steven has especially fond memories of travelling with his dad to Strontian to cut wood, while David would join them at weekends in Strathmashie and Faegour to earn extra "sheets." All three of them would be raging if the forester miscounted even a single log or piece of pulp.

Norman also ran a fish van, serving the valley for several years, before joining British Rail. There, he worked alongside David for eight years and made many lifelong friends. Even after "retirement," Norman was not one for standing still. He worked for a time with George Campbell before heading to the Highland Folk Park, where he worked happily until just last month.

Over the years, the family moved from Strathmashie to Balgowan, before Norman and Trena settled at Braeview in Newtonmore.

Norman welcomed Dawn and Owen, and later Kim, Abi and Wee Owen into his family and was an extremely proud dad, granda, and great-granda. It meant a great deal to Kevin when Norman and Trena attended his passing-out parade with the Scots Guards at Pirbright in 1990. Norman's six granddaughters - Lauren, Erin (known to Granda as "Doc"), Leah, Ellie, Isla, and Freya - brought him endless joy. He took a great interest in their lives and loved nothing more than hearing their news. There was always great excitement when Kevin, Kim, Isla, and Freya were able to travel north for family holidays. He also cherished visits from Lauren and Owen, and his great-granddaughters Maeve and Margot, and he was especially delighted when baby boy Seamus joined the family after eight girls.

Norman loved all his grandchildren equally - we are sure of that - but no one could deny he had a particular soft spot for his "Doc." This was humorously acted out one evening when one of his many tablets was playing up. Norman often bought a new tablet each time he locked himself out of one, but on this occasion he asked for help. Lauren and Erin popped down to Braeview, and Lauren fixed the tablet. Granda promptly gave Erin a tenner for her trouble.

Norman wasn't particularly sporty, but he was good at badminton, and had a genuine enjoyment of the game that he passed on to the boys. He played regularly alongside his brother Jim and his good friend Angie, appreciating the time together as much as the competition. After moving to Newtonmore, Norman took up bowls, but his lifelong sporting passion - if it can be called a sport - was pool. He played often, sometimes twice a week in his younger years, and until recently he played it virtually on his tablet.

In later years, Norman and Trena loved nothing more than taking a run out to Laggan, often walking Tara around the fields at Balgowan. Norman was very proud when Steven took on the farm there and took a keen interest in all things sheep - in fact, we often thought he came to see the sheep more than he came to see us.

Norman faced his illness with quiet strength and great bravery, passing away peacefully in Ward 5C of Raigmore Hospital, with family by his side.

In conclusion, Norman could be a quiet, deep - perhaps shy - man, but within his own circle he truly blossomed. He was dry-witted, well-informed, interested in the world, and above all, he loved his family deeply. As Trena said this week, "We had a good life together. We argued at times - but not a lot - and I miss him."



Remembering Betty Nicolson

For many years Betty managed the community owned village shop where groceries were brought and the local news of who was doing what and where, was passed on. There were no phones or iPads in those days! Betty was also an active member of the Hall Committee too.



Right to left:

Isobel Campbell, Agnes Richardson, Betty Nicolson, Margaret Sharp, Davy Macdonald (playing the accordion) and Mary Macdonald.

Sheena Campbell

"After her retirement, Betty liked nothing better than going here, there and everywhere to cattle shows with Rich, caravan in tow to Oban or to the Highlander cow/bull sales.

Betty was a good friend, someone I could go for a 'put the world to rights' chat with a cuppa or a wee dram! And there was always help when help was needed.

When we went to the play whist at Loch Laggan Hall with Dolly Campbell in her mini car, sometimes arriving a little late, Dolly would pull up at the hall door, get out of the car, hand Betty the keys and say "you park the car, your a good parker" even when there was no parking as such near the hall and she missed the first game having had to park way back up the road.

One hot day Isy and I went to clean the Church. There was a coffin in situ and Isy decided she couldn't stay so she went over to the shop, swapped aprons with Betty who arrived to help me, air freshener in hand and immediately got stuck into the cleaning.

When the Monadhliath Hotel was broken into Betty came with me to see what had been stolen and if there was any damage had been done. She stayed with me until the police arrived.

She will be missed by the many who knew her".

Anne Watt

Fine Boys, Hash on - If You Have a Minute

John MacDonald came to Drumgask farm,
from Aultcharn up Grantown way,
arriving into Laggan life
on a sunny seventies day.

With tractors, stock, and family,
Bridget, Jane, and Andrew too,
he brought a way of working hard
and a list of jobs for you.

With interest rates sky high those years,
and stock not always kind,
the bank man needed pleasing,
which rarely eased the mind.

John set about with all he had
to make Drumgask his own,
improvements made in field and hill,
in shed and dyke, and stone.

The Campbells came for fencing,
The Ormistons burned the hill,
and John was always planning
another job for someone still.

The trial of Galloways and Highlanders
was maybe not quite science,
but John drew firm conclusions
with Drumgask self-reliance.

The results were never peer-reviewed,
no graphs, no stats, no fuss,
but they led to Galloways and Blue Greys,
and John called that "fine boys" to us.

And through the years a workforce came,
some keen, some still catching their stride,
all learning John's farming ways
on the Drumgask roller-coaster ride.

They hashed on, shifted sheep,
put them in the Quarry now and then,
fell out with John at times, of course,
and then made it up again.

"Fine-boys" - "Do you have a minute?"
was never what it seemed;
it could be walking sheep for miles,
or hours of tedding while hay steamed..

"Hash on." "Save 20 seconds."
A rubbed face, black and broad;
then off he went at Drumgask pace,
while others exclaimed Oh- God.

Many a youngster learned from him
the graft that farming takes,
and how a simple morning job
could swallow holidays and breaks.

Fair labour was rewarded well,
sometimes more than pay:
a hogg to start a flock with,
and a calf to sell one day.

Calving time was full of stress,
with Charolais calves too grand,
coming out of wee small cows
that needed more than hand.

Many earned their names those days –
Fiat, Landrover - the picture's set for you;
then young Ewan Fraser showed the way,
and a new jack pulled us through.

John rose early every day
and thought that others should;
his farming stopped for nothing,
and he'd wake help if he could.

After graft came a feed and drams,
and beer to end each working day;
though eating at Drumgask sometimes
was courage in its own way.

For food was maybe not his strength,
though offered with good cheer:
Soupe d'eau, off-milk in tea,
and steak pie fried with fear.

Microwaved ribs and colostrum milk,
black tea for Thompie still,
half-cooked eggs and stewed-up tea,
a breakfast made by will.

Thank the Lord for oatcakes,
and cheese that saved the day;
a balanced diet, John would say,
if only balanced in his own way.

The JCB despised the cold
and needed fire to start,
a burning bag beneath it –
pure agricultural fine art.

The hardy 135 had brakes
that worked when least required,
and the 165 hated morning starts
a Drumgask trait not fully expired.

The Leyland needed circus skills
to steer it down the track;
you aimed it at next Tuesday
and hoped it wandered back.

Then came the four-wheel-drive Fiat,
a revelation to behold,
with Thompy stuck with the 135,
just to keep Davie bold.

Neighbouring began in earnest,
with Slinky Slimon, Louis, and Keith,
sharing costs and peak-time labour,
and the odd dented pride beneath.

There were friendships, rows, and laughter,
and no outside help back then;
the youngsters soon proclaimed themselves
the Drumgask contractor men.

At breakneck speed, like John himself,
they worked through job and weather;
if things went slightly sideways,
they called it working together.

A flying lamb to clear its airways,
dung spread through the pickup door,
a trailer tyre met with spikes
as bales flew home once more.

Clippings were for friendship,
hard graft, and dram on dram,
with stories growing bigger
each year around the lamb.

And John stuck by the shop that time,
attempting, with no great skill,
an Ayrton Senna undertake
that ended with mud up to the sill.

The Cluny boys were overtaken –
or so had been the plan –
but the new bridge landscaping
took possession of the van.

Donnie Wilson's caravan,
with an anvil tucked inside,
was hitched on John's pickup
when parked at Blargie's side.

John, Bridget, Jane, and Andrew
treated folk like family over there,
with pay packets, tea, and kindness,
along with the odd health scare.

He said defeating illness
was a mindset and all about the fight,
and when cancer came to test him,
he met it with all his might.

Each day he took with vigour,
activity his shield,
the strength that kept him moving
from steading out to field.

He'd survived a gate at Catlodge,
knocked clean-out and sent in flight,
as Iain Grant turned in above the wood
and gave us all a fright.

He endured his fiftieth birthday dook
in the green filth of Blargie bath,
with Duncan's boot for company,
yet somehow he joined the laugh.

And others had their close shaves too,
as Drumgask stories tell:
poor Bob lost his sense of smell one day
as a steer leapt up and rang his bell.

But best of all, the flying tractor,
kept secret twenty years,
when feet upon the trackrod ends
soon turned to sudden fears.

Off the road at the culvert,
with Eddie-the-Eagle watching on,
a tale was told of biting brakes
and checking cows gone wrong.

John knew the story was all wrong,
he knew fine well we lied,
but couldn't solve the mystery
till confession came with pride.

At a Laggan dance I confessed my lie,
after twenty years had passed,
and John just laughed, then shouted out,
"I knew it, I just knew it- at last."

To save a pound or two, of course,
long before it was the fashion,
John invented the circular economy
through thrift, stink, and ration.

Draped in rancid silage bags,
with sunlight finding every tear,
we poked our fingers at the sky
and breathed that 'vintage' air.

And Campbell will remember well
the "one for the calf" affair,
dragged out the pub to Breakachy flats
with whisky still to spare.

A calf in need of colostrum,
a bottle in the night,
whisky passed round hand to hand
until the job came right.

Some drank more than their fair share,
as memory will allow,
all in the noble cause, of course,
of saving calf and cow.

Memories of Drumgask working
will never stray far from me;
they shaped the path I chose in life,
and taught me what to be.

They taught me policy needs practice,
and data can get out of hand,
that figures mean much more
when you have had to work the land.

For back then there was no spare time
to circle round the truth;
John taught by doing, day by day,
to many in their youth.

These are just a few reflections
from my time-served Drumgask youth,
John's Skye crofting career then bloomed
in his usual style and truth.

Yet John was not just farm and field,
not only stock and land,
but part of Laggan's beating heart,
a strong and ready hand.

The hall, the shop, the football team,
fundraisers, work, and cheer,
he stood among the folk he loved,
year after working year.

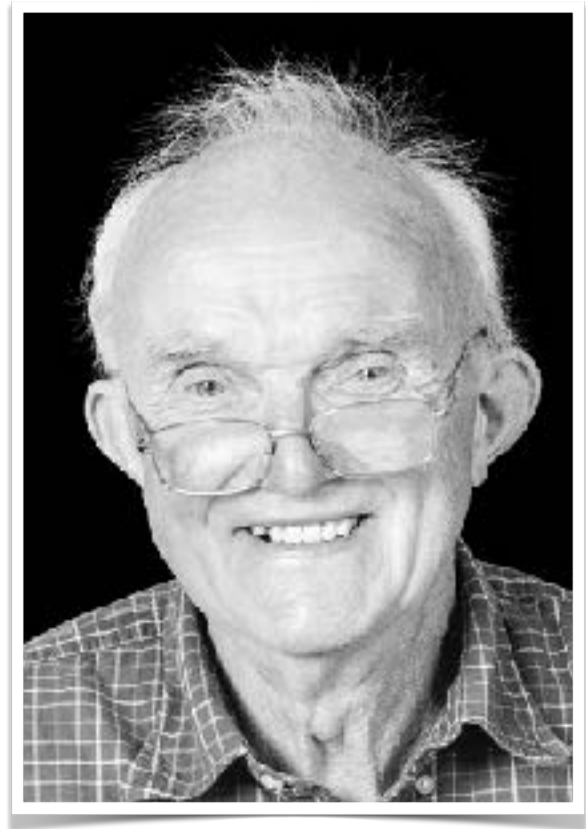
A hardy bugger, strong and fair,
with little time for fuss,
but the mark he left on Laggan
remains alive in all of us.

So here's to John MacDonald,
to Bridget, Jane, and Andrew too,
to hashing-on days, fine-boys nights,
and seeing the work right through.

To Blue Greys, sheep, tractors,
to clippings, drams, and dawn,
to all who gave a minute,
and all who still hash on.

Though John may no longer walk
in the fields he knew so well,
his legacy lives true in those he touched
and the stories we still tell.

For every life he touched along
his path from farm to shore,
for years and years to come, for sure,
he'll live long in our folklore.



Stephen Thomson 2026

Laggan Forest Trust - Summer 2026 On behalf of LFT

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

Discussions are on-going with LCC regarding the Laggan Path Audit report, with an agreed work plan still to be finalised to progress the identified improvements across the local path network. Concept design work for the play park area is set to begin in July, focusing on upgrading the existing facility and to allow an increased use by the community. Approval will also be sought from Laggan Community Housing Ltd, as landowner of the Village Play Park site.

As a reminder, two projects have already been successfully completed - in the Balgowan area woods and at the Laggan War Memorial, the latter finished in time for Armistice Sunday in November 2025. Many thanks to the respective landowners for their support in making both projects possible.

Visitor Management

As summer approaches, we are expecting the visitor centre, car park and trails around the Laggan area and in the local forest, to be busy. Forest Land Scotland, despite our request on behalf of local residents not to, continue to promote the Laggan Wolfrax car park on their website as part of their "Stay a Night" scheme for self contained camper vans and motor homes. With FLS owning the car parks at both Wolfrax and Pattack Falls, but not managing them nor allowing the Trust to, the Trust is unfortunately is being left to deal with some of the consequences and costs of inconsiderate waste disposal. We are doing our utmost to maintain a healthy environment for all visitors to the area.

The Trust's trading arm has assumed responsibility for the Bike Hire business based at the centre - a welcome opportunity to develop our staff in Bike Mechanics as well as minor bike repairs. Early days, but so far so good. The centre and café are staffed by very able young people from the local community and are gaining valuable experience and confidence in hospitality. At a time when there is much press about few work place opportunities for young people, it is gratifying that the Trust remains able to provide reliable local employment for this section of our small community. Please do come in and support them.

Forest Management

The Local Forest Management Plan - expected in late 2024 - remains unpublished. At the beginning of June 2026, we heard from FLS that the plan was still not approved by their regulator - Scottish Forestry - but that they still hope to commence felling activities in Strathmashie Forest sometime "after the summer". The timing is very sensitive for users of the trails and paths in the area as well as consequences of timber transported away from the area. We do not, as yet, know which coupes FLS intend to fell but they have sent us their "Map of Intentions". This map is available to view at the LFT Office at Wolfrax and includes potential coupes around the Upper Red and Black trails mountain bike trails on Wolfrax and a coupe near the Spey dam - The Trust will keep the community advised of any further timing developments. Some re-planting activities are also expected.

LFT AGM - the AGM for the Laggan Forest Trust took place on 16th June 2026. The annual report and accounts can be seen on the LFT website - www.lagganforest.com Draft minutes of the AGM will also be published shortly on the LFT website. The following member directors/trustees were appointed - Donald Cowan, Patrick Gallagher, David Narro and Karen Thew with 2 director/trustees co-opted - Megan Griffiths and Colin Morgan. Should any member of the community wish to join the LFT board as a Trustee/Director, our Articles and byelaws allow any interested member to be co-opted during the year. We would welcome any such expression of interest.

The LFT 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 Wolfrax 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

Laggan - Community Development Trust

The Fun Begins!

In our last update we said we were excited to have got the trust established and achieving various administrative milestones – but just maybe that didn't excite the community as much as it might! But now we are starting to see some real and meaningful progress on a number of fronts:

Launch event:

- LCDT held a launch event on 20th March to which we invited a bunch of folks from existing groups in Laggan, including LCC, LFT, LCH, Laggan Church Partnership, Laggan Heritage, Laggan Community Hall and Helping Hands. We were also joined by representatives from VABS. It was a good, mellow event where we shared information about what we are trying to do and how we work.

Public launch:

- We hope to be able to have a public launch later in the summer for everyone in Laggan, possibly as a BBQ with games for the younger ones. It's mostly to be fun and there will be information about LCDT in the hope that folks will understand more about what we are.

Laggan Allotments:

- A small and dedicated team are working in partnership with LCDT to establish allotments in Laggan (Gergask). There are a few things still to be put in place to finalise arrangements, including getting planning and signing agreements, but it is hoped that these will be completed soon. These will be in part of the field below the hall, for which we are very grateful to Ewan and Lucy Grant for their support and encouragement and for making the land available. We also acknowledge generous financial support from the SSE renewables fund. There are expected to be between 5 and 6 allotments which will be available to anyone within the Laggan boundary and will be allocated in a fair and transparent way. If you are interested then look out for an invitation that will be published via info@laggan.com. If you do not currently receive emails from them then send an email asking to be added to their mailing list.



Cat Lodge Telephone Kiosk:

- The community, particularly those around the Cat Lodge area, have expressed an interest in taking ownership of the old red telephone kiosk at the junction there. BT had been going to remove it but as this would have meant the loss of a local landmark we are pleased to say that we have signed a document to take control of it, for the foreseeable future. How it will be used has yet to be realised but its presence as a local landmark is ensured into the future.



Laggan public toilet:

- The public toilet, adjacent to The Coffee Bothy, is now being managed by Laggan Community Council but we are working on an arrangement where by LCDT would take over this responsibility to ensure their long term viability. Working with LCC and Highland Council we will look into improving and refurbishing the facility.

How can you get involved? The easy bit is just sign up as a member - you do not have to do anything! But the more members we have the better for our community as we apply for funding. Contact secretary@lagganlcdt.org

Do your own stuff! If you have something you'd like to kick off in our community that you think has support from others, then get in touch and we will try and help you make it a reality. Do you want to start a tiddlywinks club? Start a mens shed project? Organise a trip to an event? Let your imagination go wild - come up with things that will make our community even more vibrant. You still have to be the ones making it happen, but we will help get you off the ground and help find finance if you need it.

Angus Armstrong Chair LCDT

Laggan Community Council

Another term has passed by for the community council and at the time of drafting this piece our AGM 2026 is imminent. We have had one resignation from community council this term but have co-opted another member. Currently we do have sufficient members to operate but we do have capacity to take more co-opted members for the last year of our 4 year term. In 2027 the community council stands for re-election and if you would like to become part of the community council please do not hesitate to contact via e-mail chairlcc@laggan.com, secretarylcc@laggan.com or if you see any of the current council members just advise of your interest.

We continue to monitor the progress of the Loch an Earba project and associated substation, along with the proposals for the wind farm in Glen Markie. This is in addition to all the other planning proposals that are directed towards the community council from the Highland Council planning department.

The past winter has been quite harsh and has left our village roads in quite a poor condition. We are working with the Highland Council to try and have the necessary upgrades and repairs made.

This year has seen the launch of the Laggan Community Development Trust, something that the LCC have worked actively towards over the past two years. LCDT is in its infancy, however, we anticipate great things from them and wish their board of trustees much luck with this new venture.

The village planters should be starting to bloom by issue of this newsletter. Thanks to the Highland Council for continuing to provide the bedding plants for us, and to the team of volunteers for their kind assistance in giving up their time to do the planting.
Karen Thew Chair LCC

Stronelaig Community Fund for Laggan

The Stronelaig Community Fund for Laggan is now in its 10th year. The fund receives an annual index-linked payment, with the April 2026 payment valued at £86,962.30. To date, a total of £667,187.21 has been paid into the fund for the Laggan area.

More than £199,990.92 has been awarded through grants, including support for Micro Grants and Student Grants delivered via Laggan Community Council. The fund is managed by a local panel for Laggan, which was established over two years ago.

The fund has seen a significant increase in applications over the last 12 months. This is an exciting time for Laggan, following the recent development of Laggan Community Development Trust and with a number of significant projects currently being discussed by the community.

Grants awarded in the last 24 months include:

Badenoch Broadband and Comms	Laggan Upgrade	£65,000.00
Laggan Forest Trust	Path Development	£10,850.00
Laggan Forest Trust	War Memorial Path	£9,945.00
Laggan Hall	Energy review and revenue and activity costs 2026	£7,315.50
Laggan Community Council	Student Grants 25/26	£5,000.00
Laggan Forest Trust	To provide staff training in bike mechanics to support the bike hire business at Wolfrax.	£1,150.00
Laggan Community Council	Student Grants 26/27	£5,000.00
Laggan Forest Trust	To develop a concept design for Laggan community park.	£3,623.00
Coutryside Learning Scotland	To deliver a rural employment education programme to support young adults and businesses in the Laggan area.	£12,500.00
Laggan Community Council	Micro Grants 26/27	£5,000.00
Laggan Churches Partnership	To undertake a condition survey of the former Laggan Church, identify potential uses for the space, and carry out a community consultation.	£13,795.00
Laggan Community Development Trust	To support the development of 6 allotments in Laggan including the purchase of a Polycrub.	£18,350.00

For grant deadlines:**31st July 2026****30th November 2026**

For details of fund guidance and how to apply please visit the website <https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/stronelairg/>

SSE Annual Community Investment Reviews can be found here - <https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-investment-reviews/>

Funded project update - Badenoch Broadband upgrade for Laggan

The primary goal of our project is to make 100Mbps and faster broadband services available to all our Laggan customers.

At the start of the project, the fastest speed service that we had available was 32Mbps.

At the end of last year, we upgraded all customers on our 32Mbps service to 50Mbps. This was the goal of our first stage and, after months of work, we are now entering the final stage: We've almost completed the upgrade of the core network. Customer routers have been upgraded to the newest version and we will start upgrading eligible customers to 100Mbps before the end of June.

The upgrades will be staged over the next few months but we expect to have all areas on 100Mbps before the start of winter if everything goes according to plan.

We will contact everyone individually to let you know when your 100Mbps service is available.

Carol Masheter



Finding Defibs in and around Laggan



We have five defibrillators locally, four of which are monitored regularly by volunteer One Kingussie Defib Custodians.

In the event of an emergency always dial 999

The use of What 3 Words is not advised as some of the words themselves are not easy to decipher over the 'phone.

- The Laggan Hotel PH201BS
- This is situated on the east end of the building as you look towards the hotel entrance.



- Laggan (Gergask) Doctor's Surgery PH201AH
- This is situated on the front of the building to the right of the front doors.



- The Pottery PH201BT
- This is situated directly in front of you as you drive into the car park.



- Wofltrax PH201BU.
- This is situated to the right of the entrance to the cafe.



- Dalwhinnie Petrol Station PH191AF
- This is situated to the right of the entrance to the shop.



What's On in Laggan July to November 2026

Badenoch Gardening Club Saturday 22nd August

- Saturday 22nd August
- 2pm
- St Bride's Church, Newtonmore
- Entry fee £3

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 17th August

- Monday 17th August
- 6.30pm
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 21st September

- Monday 21st September
- 6.30pm
- Wolftrax

Hall Helping Hands Haggis Drive! Saturday 26th September

- Saturday 26th September
- 6.00pm
- Light refreshments
- Laggan Community Hall

Laggan Community Council Meeting Monday 19th October

- Monday 19th October
- 6.30pm - Venue to be confirmed

Helping Hands Afternoon Tea Thursday 29th October

- Thursday 29th October
- 2.30 to 4pm
- Laggan Community Hall

How We Were ...

Has your home undergone major changes over the the years? If so we'd love to see your photos: email jillvn@aol.com

Here are some old photos of Huntill:



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