



Insh Community Holdings

Spring & Summer Newsletter 2026

In this issue

Front page

Welcome from ICH Trustees

Page 1

CNPA updates

Page 2

Working Party

Tree planting events

Birdbox cleanout

Membership/Funding

Christmas lights date(s)

Page 3

Environmental Issues -

Wildfires

Page 4

Contact details for Trustees

Page 5

Stay Connected

Page 6

Nature Spotters

Nature Notes

Page 7

Next newsletter distribution month

Welcome from the Insh Trustees



Hello to our Spring and Summer newsletter.

Spring seems like a distant memory, the warm sunny weather and longer days allowed us to reset and plan our days with a bounce in our step. As we moved into Summer, we would like to thank ICH members for attending the AGM within RSPB Ivy Cottage on the 24th of June, a total of 20 members attended (minutes will be available on the website) before adjourning to the cottage garden on a warm and sunny evening for drinks and nibbles; these were provided by Dick's family as a thank you and memorial/celebration of Dick's life in the village.

The Trustees are planning to hold a late Summer work party event on Saturday 10th October 2026, 4.00 – 6.00pm, followed by cheese and wine in the Community woodland using the remaining donations, whether you knew Dick or not, everyone is welcome. We had originally planned a Barbecue but due to fire risk and regulations we have opted for a safer 'party'. All are welcome.

Regarding fire risk, we know everyone is aware of the terrible fire in the Cairngorms. At present we do not have a fire plan for our woodland, so this is something we hope to be addressing as a matter of priority soon. If anyone has any experience in this area or would like to help, please contact any of the trustees as we would be grateful for any support.

Farewell to Steve and Jen Barrett from Larchfield, they left the village after 14 years, we wish them well. Welcome to Katie and Scott who are now in Larchfield, and Jules and Dave who are now in Greenfield.



Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA) Updates

Cairngorms Community Path Group



In June, on behalf of Insh Community Holdings, I attended a gathering of the Cairngorms Community Path Group which was led by the Recreation and Access Branch of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA). There were representatives from eleven path and community groups around the Cairngorms, and we all introduced ourselves and gave a brief description of the work we are doing.

This was really useful as there was plenty of time to network over the excellent food provided by The Crossing in Kingussie and fill in some of the gaps and discuss common issues.

The main purpose of the day was to find out about the CNPA's Accessible Path Audit Toolkit, 'More paths for more people,' which will be launched shortly online on their website, but is already available via the Cairngorms Trust website at <https://cairngormstrust.org.uk/new-fund-for-national-park-path-improvements/>

This is a handy guide to standards for providing paths for all abilities, and we got to test it out in the field. Accessible paths are routes for everyone and are suitable for people with limited mobility. This includes wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, people using mobility scooters, people with visual impairments, and anyone who wants an easier walk.

Even if paths cannot be built to the optimum standard, and this includes a gradient of not more than 10%, it enables classification of routes so that potential users can work out where it is safe to go. We also saw some practical examples of problem solving in the woods up behind Kingussie.

Overall, a useful day. Hopefully, we can put some of the knowledge into practice, and it is always good to make contact with other community groups and tap into their experience.

Cattie Anderson

Work Party Group

Future dates can be found on the website calendar.

Huge thanks to Willie, Chris and John for cutting remaining logs in community woodland and bringing them to the roadside for members to collect at their leisure.



Tree planting



Hedge maintenance



Woodland work



Grazings work

Bird boxes clean out

We will be cleaning community woodland boxes out during November in preparation for next year's breeding season.

Would you like to join us?

Date will be posted on Facebook and Website.



Woodland Tree Planting & Tree works events.



Spring - Let's Dig it - Spring break event on **Saturday 4th April**. Woodland Trust supplied 400 extra trees, and a great turnout of volunteers joined forces to plant them in hedgerow.

Summer – Woodland tree works – **Saturday 8th August**. Victoria, Cattie, Sue, Jules, Dave, Katy, Scott and Grant spent the afternoon thinning Birch and clearing Lodgepole and Sitka.



Look out for future work parties and group events via website and Facebook page

Next event 10th October 2026, 4.00 - 6.00pm

Memberships and Funding

Thank you for renewing/becoming a member.

We have also received a few donations, thank you, which keeps the bank account healthy. This extra funding will be put to good use in the future including putting £100 towards the routine maintenance and upkeep of our AED (Automated External Defibrillator) - found next to the noticeboard and postbox.



Christmas Lights switch on 2026

Double festive cheer. Insh Community Woodland switch on will be Saturday 5th December and Kingussie is on Sunday 6th December.

Calling community elves/elfettes would you like to help us 'deck the woodland with Christmas cheer', untangle fairy lights, hang baubles and decorations finishing with a sprinkle of glitter and merriment?

If you can help 30th November – 4th December please let us know.



Environmental Issues - Wildfires

ICH Trustees have been discussing a fire plan for Insh Community Woodland and Grazings in the event of a fire.

Did anyone attend the Wildfire meeting in Aviemore? Can you offer advice, risk assessments, and on the ground experience?

More details in Autumn newsletter.

Please contact us info@inshcommunityholdings.co.uk



Contact Details for Trustees



Chair – vacant

Treasurer – Dan Walker Treasurer@inshcommunity.co.uk

Secretary – Cattie Anderson Secretary@inshcommunity.co.uk

Trustee – Colin McPherson info@inshcommunity.co.uk

Trustee – Grant Shorten info@inshcommunity.co.uk

Trustee – Victoria Marlowe info@inshcommunity.co.uk

Trustee – Jen Singh info@inshcommunity.co.uk

Please contact Cattie if you wish to become a member, only £5 per year.

If you would like to be on committee, please contact the Trustees for more information.

Stay Connected

Insh Community Holdings

Scan QR code



“Join the Conversation”

We are looking for community contributions no matter how small (or big) they are, do you have ideas for future newsletters? What would you like to see included? An upcoming event? A historic tale from the village? An exciting nature sighting? Or just a beautiful photograph you'd like to share – get in touch by email:

newsletter@inshcommunity.co.uk

Insh Community Holdings Website

The website is growing from strength to strength with a revamp kindly pulled together by Dave. Some of the trustees attended a zoom meeting for demonstration and handover on Monday 21st September. All items will be migrated from temporary website over next couple of weeks. Thank you.

Local Community Websites

www.kingussie.co.uk/

www.cairngorms.co.uk/

www.kincraigcommunityhall.co.uk

www.newtonmore.com/

Saving Wildcats Team request

Some of us have joined the Insh Community Wildcats WhatsApp group created by SW for released wildcat adventure updates . If you would like to join please contact us at info@inshcommunityholdings.co.uk or Alexander Scurrah-Price to be added.



Credit: Colin McPherson Newly released wildcat ‘Randall’ sitting in a garden.

Nature Spotters Gallery

One of the resident wildcats has been spotted in the community woodlands, its been confirmed by Jamie from Saving Wildcats, it IS Neep, the female who had 2 kittens this year, she tends to keep to the outskirts of village when the kittens are young and learning from their beautiful mum. The kittens should be independent now. Remember if you wish to know about the wildcats, join the WhatsApp group.



Credit: Victoria

Good news, red squirrels have been popping up in gardens more recently enjoying peanuts and fresh water. Aren't they gorgeous!



Credit: Jackie



Credit: Jackie

Nature Notes

Did you notice on your Spring walk - alien looking vivid orange horns on Juniper branches during May? This is Juniper apple rust - to survive the fungi needs both Juniper (host) and apple trees (infect) to complete its life cycle. Don't worry the fungus does not harm the Juniper or us.



Juniper Rust

Next edition will be distributed February 2027

