

Hoof fungus



Insh Community Holdings

Winter Newsletter 2026

In this issue

Front page

Welcome from ICH Trustees

Page 1

CPNA Path final update
Woodland Eco Survey

Page 2

Events
Working Party

Page 3

Trustees contact details
Donation

Page 4

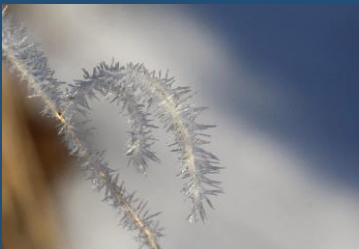
ICH Website
Funding
Recruitment/Members

Page 5

Firewood
Grazings update
Nature Detectives

Page 6

Nature Notes
Join the Conversation
Environmental issues



Welcome Message from the Insh Trustees

Well, a Happy New Year to you all.

As the Trustees, we have been putting our heads together, to look at where we are, and where Insh Community Holdings and community would like to go in the future. Work behind the scenes and on the ground – boots and warm clothing of course – will continue.

We will continue to work and talk with statutory and non-governmental organisations as its important for us to work together for a greener and happier community.

We are delighted to have the website up running with further technology added – see new QR Insh Code (page 4) - as we navigate to better communication links for residents and visitors.

A huge thank you to our members who responded to our last newsletter call for community input, this shared knowledge is so valuable for future generations and will help to build a deeper sense of community connections. With permission, the information can be found on website.

Finally, we would like to thank the community and surrounding villages for attending the community woodland Christmas lights switch on (and 2025 events). The community spirit makes our village a lovely place to live.

Looking ahead to a productive greener partnership 2026. The ICH Trustees

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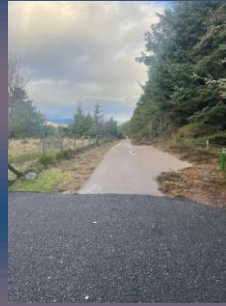
Save the Date – ICH AGM, Ivy Cottage, 24th June 2026

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Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA) – Speyside Way path final update

The works are now complete and there is a one-year maintenance obligation for the contractor. A big thank you to Cairngorms National Park Authority and the contractors, ACT heritage.



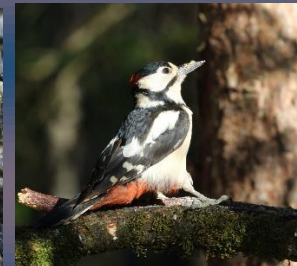
CNPA - Community Woodland Ecological Survey



This year we have an exciting opportunity to get a better idea of what wildlife uses our community woodlands. Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) run a rolling programme of passive biodiversity monitoring across the park. For the 2026 season this monitoring is focusing on woodland sites. As part of this programme CNPA have offered us the opportunity to have some wildlife monitoring carried out within Insh Community Woodlands. This will involve CNPA ecologists setting up a few acoustic recorders (to detect birds and bat species) and camera traps within our community woodlands this Spring/Summer. The data collected will be analysed by the British Trust for Ornithology/Cambridge University (both collaborating with CNPA on this project) to give CNPA a better idea of what wildlife is out there on a park level.

As Landowners, Insh Community will be given a full species list and any interesting recordings/photos of wildlife within our woodland - including raw data – providing us with a baseline of knowledge, from which repeated monitoring in future years will show increase/decrease of species.

CNPA are planning to put out some acoustic recorders and camera traps within the woodlands early April, equipment is quick to set up and can be easily moved between locations to help give an overall picture of our site. So, if you notice recording equipment within the woodlands during Spring/Summer/Autumn, this is what its for, it will be labelled. Let us know if you have any questions. We will be happy to answer them or put you in touch with someone from CNPA who can.



Credit: Colin McPherson

Events and Work Party Group

Community Christmas Lights



Credit images: Dan Walker

Christmas lights switch on

7th December 2025

There was a fantastic turnout for the Christmas Lights switch on in the community woodland. Thank you to everyone who braved the weather and juggling other commitments to make it along.

It was great to see so many people enjoying some early Christmas spirit, mulled wine, minced pies and amazing home baking.

Thank you to everyone who played a part, big or small, but most of all, thank you to Liz and Neil Johnstone for the planning preparation and original idea for what is becoming a great annual event for the village and surrounding community.



Woodland Tree Planting Events



Sunday 7th December saw a tree-mendous Christmas community spirited turnout from residents and volunteers for the first tree planting event.

The mixed native saplings were planted within the community's 2-year-old mixed hedgerow – enhancing and providing a bigger and much greener heartbeat for future generations and wildlife.

Let's Dig it - Spring break event on **Saturday 4th April**. Woodland Trust supplied 400 more trees - so they need to be planted now. Pop along for an hour or stay all day. Meeting point TBC.

Look forward to seeing you.

Work Party Group

...is always looking for more volunteers who enjoy the outdoors and getting involved in practical conservation and general maintenance work.

The work party generally meet up mid-week to do conservation work within the Insh Community Woodland and surrounding land.

There may be scope for some weekend work.

Future dates to be confirmed for



Tree planting



Hedge maintenance



Woodland work



Grazings work

Contact Details for Trustees



Chair – vacant

Treasurer – Dan Walker

Treasurer@inshcommunity.co.uk

Secretary – Cattie Anderson

Secretary@inshcommunity.co.uk

Trustee – Colin McPherson

Colin.McPherson123@BTinternet.com

Trustee – Grant Shorten

GShorten92@gmail.com

Trustee – Victoria Marlowe

VMarlowe87@gmail.com

Trustee – Andi Singh

Peaksandpaddles@mail.com

Trustee – Jen Singh

Jenaung@hotmail.com

Loch Insh Old Kirk Donation

Trustees have discussed make a £250 donation towards the ongoing fundraising by the recently formed Loch Insh Old Kirk Charity Group, set up to come together and prevent the Loch Insh Old Kirk from being lost to private sale. More information can be found on their website <https://www.liok.org/>

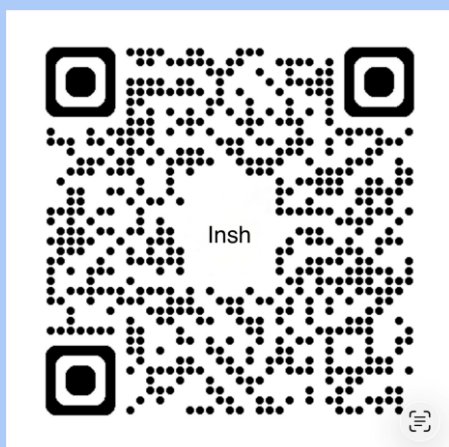
If you have any concerns about ICH making such a donation to support another local charitable organisation, please get in touch.

ICH Website

Our website continues its construction, please use the link below

Inshcommunity.co.uk Or use the new village QR code below.

They will be placed on signposts for visitors to use too.



Remember to send any ideas of what you would like to see in newsletter.

Newsletter@inshcommunity.co.uk



CO-OP Funding



ICH secured approximately £1,800 from the Co-op community fund to be used for extending, enhancing and maintaining our path network, including those linking the community to Speyside Way.

Trustees have some ideas for how the money could be spent, but we would love to hear what ideas the community has for new paths, benches or other interventions within ICH land.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the community, please drop us an email.

info@inshcommunity.co.uk

Recruitment

Membership forms now available on the ICH website.

Membership is £5 per year.

If you no longer wish to be a member - *we don't want to see you go* – please email and ask to be removed from mailing list.

Secretary@inshcommunity.co.uk

Logo

We would love to have an Insh Community Holdings logo.

The creative minds are working on one right now.

What would you like to see as part of logo?

Red Squirrel
Woodland
Pine Marten
Scottish Wildcat
Mountains
Or a mix of the above?

Email the newsletter with your suggestions.
Thanks.

Community Woodland Firewood



Firewood is still available to ICH members, with more to come in the Spring as we continue to remove the remaining hung up trees from the Winter storms.

Assistance with delivery can be arranged for those who may need it.

If you would like a load, a suggested donation of £30 as in previous years, with payment made to ICH.

Please email
treasurer@inshcommunity.co.uk

with your order and proof of payment

Bank details:

Sort Code 80-05-40

Account number 00262965

Nature Detectives

Have you spotted Capercaillie in the forest and surrounding area? RSPB would love to hear of any sightings of these rare and elusive birds. Please email any sighting information to Helen Gray at nsro@rspb.org.uk with details of the location (grid reference), date, record – what was seen, activity and behaviour, and if you are lucky enough to capture them – photographs.

Insh Grazings



Trustees have been discussing the usage of the Grazings for the benefit of the wider community, whilst maintaining and enhancing the crofting heritage of the village.

Ideas include: periodic separation of the grazing stock to allow for public access, extending the orchard, enhancing the pond area to attract more wildlife, and adding a pond dipping platform – do you have other ideas?

Please get in touch.

And finally, a thank you to our local partners at RSPB, who continue to provide guidance, knowledge and even the loan of a tractor and mower when needed, to keep the rushes under control.

Nature Notes

This amazing Hair Ice was spotted in community woodland, it only appears when the temperature and humidity conditions are just right - just below freezing and high moisture in the air - looks like silk strands.

Check out log piles or tree stumps to see Red Squirrel signs like these pine cone remains on log pile – can you see the nibbles?

It's cool to Tree hug finding other species like fungi, lichen, insect signs - see what you can spot? Send your nature photos to the newsletter.



Hair Ice



Red Squirrel feeding site



Jelly Rot Fungus on Scots Pine

“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.

Environmental Issues

Reports of Silt pollution (February 2026) were reported to SEPA by residents, grid references and photos were supplied to SEPA who after examining evidence deemed it wasn't human error but a combination of forestry works and heavy rain. For future environmental concerns please contact Tracey.McPherson@sepa.org.uk