



[www.logiecoldstone.org](http://www.logiecoldstone.org)

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome,

There's a different sound in Logie Coldstone this year—and it's the absence of one.

No children's voices drifting across the playground, no chatter at the school gates, no rhythm of the day marked by bells and busy feet. The closure of the school has left a quietness that's hard to ignore. It's not just a building that's gone still—it's the heartbeat of the community.

Logie Coldstone Trust remains committed to doing what it has always done: bringing people together and keeping community life alive. We are a volunteer-run charity that looks after the hall and supports local activities, and that role feels more important than ever.

The hall continues to be well used, with groups meeting for walking, badminton, crafts, gardening, reading, baby and toddler, and Rural/WI. The monthly community café remains a welcome chance for folk of all ages to catch up—perhaps now more than ever, as we all adjust to a quieter village. While we miss seeing the school children taking part, it's a space that still offers connection, conversation, and a sense of belonging.

We're pleased to have secured funding again this year from the Communities Mental Health and Well-being Fund, allowing many of our activities to remain free and accessible to everyone.

The past year has reminded us just how vital these shared spaces and moments are. Without the daily presence of the school, we all feel the shift—but it also strengthens our resolve to keep the village connected in every way we can.

As always, the Trust extends its sincere thanks to everyone who supports community activities and helps make Logie Coldstone a great place to be.

Please keep an eye out for updates on social media—Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok—or get in touch via email at [lctrust2012@gmail.com](mailto:lctrust2012@gmail.com) if you'd like to be involved.

Together, we'll keep the heart of Coldstone beating.

## Event dates

**Community Café**, LC Hall  
*1st Friday of every month (except Jan.), 10am-12, at the hall*

**Curling Club Quiz**, Saturday 23 May, time TBC, the Airedale

**Morven Walk**, Saturday 30th May, meet at 10:30am at hall

**Fun Games**, Saturday 27th June, opens 2pm, at park next to Airedale

**Duck Race**, TBC. Provisionally Sunday 13th September, from 2pm, at the burn side near Cairngorm Lodges



### Hall bookings

For any booking enquiries, please

contact us at

[lctrust2012@gmail.com](mailto:lctrust2012@gmail.com)

### Email updates

For regular updates on local news/events, email

[lctrust2012@gmail.com](mailto:lctrust2012@gmail.com)

to join our mailing list.

## 2025/26 Logie Coldstone groups and activities

### Logie Coldstone Walking to Health Group

We assemble at the hall on a Thursday afternoon for a 1:30pm departure, off in gentle procession around the local area, or perhaps driving somewhere for adventures further afield. Wherever it is that we roam, after about an hour the hall calls us back, for a fly cup, a fine piece and a good blether. Contact: [lctrust2012@gmail.com](mailto:lctrust2012@gmail.com)



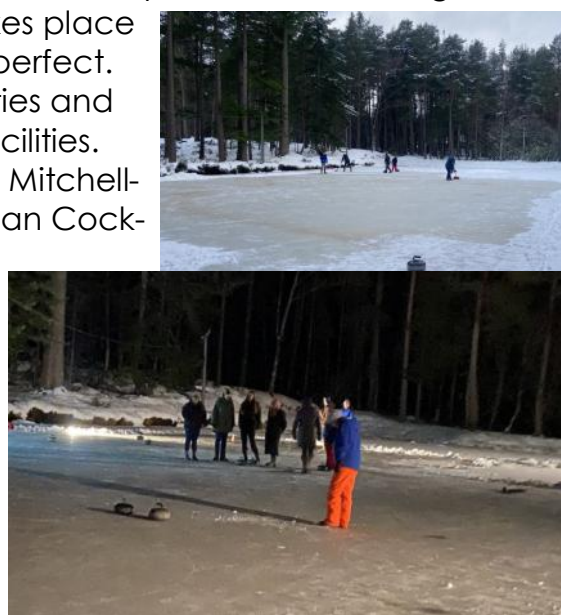
### Logie Coldstone Badminton

Enjoy a game of badminton - all welcome to come along. Players of all abilities are made very welcome at this friendly, social and slightly competitive club. 8pm till 10pm on Wednesday evening (unless 2nd Wednesday of the month, in which case Tuesday) Contact Hitesh Mitchell-Mehta, 07801 432093

### Logie Coldstone Curling Club & 100 Club Prize Draw

The club was formed in 1893 and gives a warm and friendly welcome to all age groups and keen curlers of all abilities. Curling takes place on our local pond when weather conditions are perfect. The club throughout the year holds various activities and events in order to maximise the use of the club facilities. The officials for season 2026 are: President : Hitesh Mitchell-Mehta; Vice President : Paul Mather; Secretary : Brian Cockburn (contact phone number 01339 880027); Treasurer : Rachel Mather.

Membership fees are £20 for an individual and £35 for a family. The 100 club fee is £24 for a years subscription and there is a draw each month. Please contact the secretary if you require an application form for membership, the 100 club or wish to see the Club Constitution and Privacy Notice.



We are in process of carrying out a major refurbishment to the clubhouse and pond lighting. Members will be contacted by Email and on Facebook when the club arranges any activity or event. Proposed events for the coming year are: Quiz night to be held in the Airedale on Saturday 23 May; a raft race will be held in August; and a BBQ music night. The possibility of an introduction to paddle boarding has been suggested. For more information or to sign up, contact Brian Cockburn, 013398 80027 or [bri.cat1@binternet.com](mailto:bri.cat1@binternet.com) We look forward to seeing you at the club!

## Logie Coldstone Community Café

Our Community Cafe goes from strength to strength and is a great place to meet and make friends! We put the world to right and catch up with what is happening in the village. It is so lovely to see the toddlers enjoying the hall and making us all smile! The Cafe runs the first Friday of the month - 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. We have an amazing group of volunteers who give of their time to set up, provide fabulous bakes and run the cafe - thank you all for your hard work - we couldn't do it without you! (New volunteers always welcome - contact Pat Turner 07547867531). Pop a note on your calendar for first Friday of the month - we look forward to welcoming you!



## Logie Coldstone Craft Group

Logie Coldstone Craft Group meets fortnightly in the hall on a Tuesday from 10am til 12pm. Thanks to the wellbeing grant, there is no cost. We are a relaxed and friendly group. People of all ages and gender are welcome to join us for a chat and fly cup. You can bring along a craft activity that you've been meaning to start or finish for years, some mending, some mindful colouring or some even mundane task that is easier to get done with company. It is also perfectly ok to do nothing! It's a chance to have a break from your normal life. Anyone using the homeworking hub is welcome to pop down-stairs to join us. Our next meetings are Tuesday 5th May, Tuesday 19th May etc. School holidays may be different. If in doubt, contact me Rachel Mather on [prdmather@pm.me](mailto:prdmather@pm.me)



## Bright and cheery

Thanks to June and helpers at the old shop / PO for keeping the area around the war memorial looking bright, cheery and looked after.



# Logie Coldstone Scottish Women's Institute 'the rural'

We are a small, friendly group of ladies meeting on the second Wednesday of the month (Sept-May) at 7.30pm in the hall. Our institute here in Logie Coldstone started in 1920 and we continue to come together to share and learn, taking an informal approach to our meetings (we steer away from having SWI competitions!), with guest speakers, activities, and open evenings where we welcome a diversity of age and gender. A fine fly cup is a regular feature at our events and meetings. Come along and bring £2 to cover refreshments and a ticket for the small raffle. Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/logiecoldstoneswi>  
Here's what we've been up to since the last newsletter.



In April 2025 we voted for our committee: President – Kathleen Farquhar; Vice President – Gill Lumsden; Secretary – Jude Bain; Treasurer – Anne Mathers; Press Secretary – Moira Melrose.

Last May our ladies were planning their programme for the year ahead, coming up with ideas for interesting speakers and events. We also enjoyed Kathleen's fun flower quiz with a fine fly-cup, a card trick by Jude, and the raffle.

The summer outing was held in June, with 12 ladies and 2 children in attendance. Our first stop was Deeside Antiques Emporium, in the old church in Kincardine O Neil. The antiques collections are a real treasure trove and there is so much to see.



We all agreed that Deeside Antiques Emporium is a wonderful place to go looking for a special piece of furniture, decoration, vintage item, or jewellery. Many thanks to Holly for having us there. Afterwards, we set off to Deeside Activity Park for a lovely lunch.

After our traditional break for the summer, we reconvened in September, holding an Open Meeting with Mike Duxbury from Inclusive Farm Scotland at MacRobert who gave a superb talk. The evening was well attended, with a magnificent spread, many thanks to Sylvia and others; a sales table of lovely items, many of which made and donated by our ladies; and a raffle. Through sales table and raffle, Logie Coldstone SWI donated £100 to the Inclusive Farm charity. Thanks to everyone involved, especially thanks to Mike and Ness.



In October, Logie Coldstone SWI Institute celebrated our 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. To mark the occasion, some of our ladies went to Balnault Farm shop for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon Tea.



Then for our October meeting, Graham Bruce kindly joined us and gave an excellent talk about the history and people of Logie Coldstone and Cromar, bringing to life the stories of his family living in the area in the generations before. With many thanks to Graham for a super evening, and to all who came along. As a thank you, a donation was made from our SWI to Graham's chosen charity – Erskine Veterans Charity. Thanks also to Anne & Gill for a lovely spread.

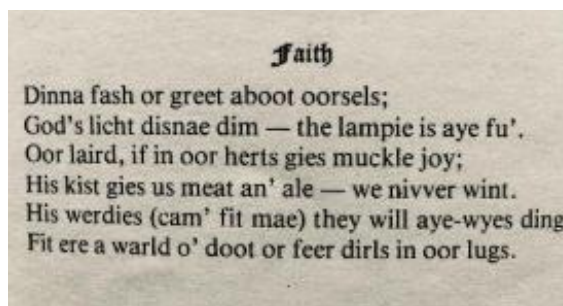
November was a small cosy group meeting of the ladies, amidst the rainy weather, with some tabletop games.

In December, we had lots of laughs as we transformed towels into mice, bears, penguins and rose buds! Thank you so much Jacqueline for demonstrating these and for expertly drafted illustrated instructions for us to take home!



Our January mini-Burns supper was close to being scuppered for a second year running, due to the cold weather combined with the hall heating and power being out of action. Sylvia kindly hosted the ladies in her home, with members bringing different components of the meal. Jacqueline said the grace - "Faith" - written by her grandfather, Davie Duncan, a huge fan of Burns.

We then enjoyed our Burns Supper of cock-leekie soup or vegetable soup & oatcakes; haggis, neeps & tatties; cranachan; and tea/coffee. After our delicious meal, we learned curious facts about Robbie Burns, from Moira, via Alan and his membership of the Kilmaurs Burns Society. We then enjoyed music from Sylvia on flute, and Rachel on fiddle. Their beautiful duets of Dark Island Waltz, Aran Boat Song, and Da Slockit Light a lovely way to conclude a cosy evening on a chilly night.



In February we had a small gathering, with thanks to Trevor for providing electric heaters to keep us cosy while the hall heating was out of action. The ladies browsed through a collection of local photographs from many decades gone by. Special thanks to Joyce and Anne for all their work putting it all together, and thanks to Gillian for assisting with the Logie coldstone DVD that we watched. It is hoped to continue this project to build upon and organise this wonderful historical collection of photos and artifacts at various community events.

# Logie Coldstone Scottish Women's Institute 'the rural'

At our most recent meeting this March, we were joined by Belinda Rowlands, Chief Executive of The Seed Box Ltd, who gave an excellent talk. We heard the inspiring story of how she created the organisation, how the initiative has grown to serve and support many adults and children with additional needs, and communities more broadly. As a thank you, our institute made a donation to The Seed Box Ltd. Thanks also to Kathleen for a delicious spread and to all who came along.



In April 2026 we will hold our business meeting, and in May we will be planning the events, speakers and activities for the year ahead. Please do come along if you would like to get involved.

## Gardening Group

The GC is not just about gardening, and sometimes anything but... A monthly gathering of community friends, a rest for the walking group's feet, a test of barista skills, an exchange of ideas and news, sometimes an extension of the committee meeting. (with no minutes), and sometimes gardening, or outdoor maintenance. Where are the manicured beds, and pretty perennials? Well we do what we can without pressure, and with the willing hands present - let the wild life buzz, and we protect shrubs and trees from the insurgent broom.



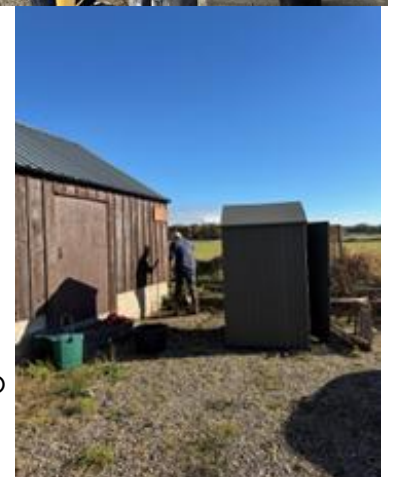
We aim to meet the second Sunday of every month. 10.30am for an hour or two.

The Trust will be sourcing a delivery of chuckies soon for the car parking area to suppress weeds, and tidy the grounds. Look out for notices if you want to lend a hand.



Please let us know if you would like to join our WhatsApp group to be kept in the loop. LCT Email address below, or contact any trustee.

Logie Coldstone Facebook page will also keep you up to date. We look forward to a fruitful year, with new and familiar faces. Just drop by for a blether and a brew, and bring gardening gloves if you want to get involved outdoors. It would be great to see you.



## Logie Coldstone Baby, Bumps and Toddler Group

Our Logie Coldstone Babies, Bumps and Toddlers group will be running on Wednesday mornings between 10am-12pm from early Summer onwards. Everyone is welcome, so please come along for some fun play, a healthy snack and cuppa. For more information please see the Logie Coldstone Toddlers Facebook group.



## Logie Coldstone Reading Group (ELSIE)

Elsie is a very informal, friendly reading group - we meet every six weeks in the upstairs room of the Coldstone Hall.

Selection for books is made from Aberdeenshire Libraries Reading Group collection. 2026 books are:

- Lessons in chemistry - Bonnie Garmus was discussed on 17 April 2026.
- Miss Bensons Beetle - Rachel Joyce
- The Body lies - Jo Baker
- Boy A - Jonathan Trigell
- Queen Macbeth - Val McDermid
- Tuesdays with Morrie - Mitch Albom
- John McNab - John Buchan
- Being Emily - Anne Donovan.



New members always welcome - not just about the books we read - we enjoy the chance for a natter. Contact Pat on 07547867531 if you'd like more details.

## Curlers Ball 14 February 1999

Thanks to Sandy and Hazel Moncur for sharing this blast from the past!



# Logie Coldstone School

## Going to the Court of Session with Nothing but Courage

In Logie Coldstone, we pride ourselves on an indomitable community spirit. But in 2024–2025, that spirit was put to the ultimate test.

At the start of the 2024–2025 academic year, Aberdeenshire Council's Learning Estates team met with parents of Logie Coldstone Primary School. The message was stark: due to a falling school roll, the Council proposed either to close the school and merge it with Tarland Primary, or to mothball it from August 2025.

Despite immediate and determined resistance from parents and the wider community, the Council insisted that one of these routes would be pursued.

In October 2024, one parent from each family was invited to meet with the Head Teacher and asked to choose between closure or mothballing. Every parent made their position clear: they wanted the school to remain open. But if forced to choose, they selected mothballing—hoping it might preserve a path to reopening.

A month later, the Council formally wrote to the community proposing mothballing and invited the community to a series of drop-in sessions with both the Learning Estates Team and the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Team. Logie Coldstone Trust pushed back, requesting a single, open community meeting to ensure transparency and consistency. Eventually, a meeting was scheduled for 25 March 2025.

Behind the scenes, Trust Committee members worked tirelessly—writing, challenging, and requesting meetings with the decision-maker, Director of Education Laurence Findlay. These requests were repeatedly declined or avoided.

In February 2025, members of the community attended online sessions with the Shaping Places for Wellbeing team. The community spoke passionately about the school's role at the heart of village life. The resulting report supported keeping the school open. Yet at the March meeting—attended by around 80 people—it became clear the decision was already drifting out of the community's hands. While concerns were raised about pupil numbers, community impact, and misrepresentation of parents' views, the session felt less like consultation and more like explanation.

At that point, the Trust reached a difficult conclusion: if the community's voice was not being heard, it would have to be fought for. The decision was taken to seek a Judicial Review.

What followed was extraordinary.

Evenings turned into the small hours as the Trust Committee worked relentlessly—submitting Freedom of Information requests, researching, drafting legal documents, and seeking representation. No professional legal help could be secured. In the end, the Trust would have to stand alone and represent themselves.



Judicial Review is one of the most complex legal challenges available—designed to test whether public bodies have acted lawfully. The Trust's case was simple in principle: under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a proper consultation must take place where a decision is likely to lead to permanent closure. Evidence from Freedom of Information requests to every local authority suggested that mothballing virtually always led to permanent closure.

Before the case could proceed, it had to be approved by a judge. After a tense wait, Lord Lake allowed it to go forward—with minor amendments. For a community group representing themselves, this was no small achievement.

A hearing was set for 15 July 2025.

The end of the school year was marked by a deeply emotional assembly at the start of July 2025. Families and community members gathered as pupils performed songs, recitals, and music, celebrating their time at the school. There were speeches, tributes, and promises from the staff to return if the school reopened. And then—one final moment of joy—a school-wide water fight. Children seized the rare opportunity to soak their Head Teacher, laughter echoing through the grounds one last time.

Then the doors closed.

During the proceedings, a significant revelation emerged: the decision to mothball the school had already been made on 8 November 2024—after just ten minutes of discussion. The only recorded justification was an estimated annual saving of £75,000, with no consideration of the community impact or educational benefits to pupils. This had never been disclosed to the community.

On 15 July, three members of the Trust appeared in court before Lady Carmichael, facing senior legal counsel. It was, in every sense, a David versus Goliath moment.



They presented their case over four hours, and Lady Carmichael described it in her judgement as being clear, structured, and, at times, deeply moving.

Ultimately, the court declined to order the school to reopen during the proceedings and for any future consultation, due to Aberdeenshire Council's position that none of the staff could return due to changed contractual obligations prior to the end of term. Without that interim step, the case could not continue.

But the judgment carried an important acknowledgement: the legal argument—that proper consultation was required—had merit.

So as this situation becomes increasingly common across the shire... what did we learn?

First, act early. By the time formal proposals are presented, decisions are likely to have already been made. Seek free legal advice immediately.

Second, document everything. Keep records of every meeting, every communication, every statement, preferably openly recorded for future reference.

# Going to the Court of Session with Nothing but Courage (continued)

Third, be cautious when presented with limited choices. A forced “choice” between closure and mothballing can later be framed as community consent.

Is the fight over?

No.

Any move from mothballing to permanent closure will still require consultation. And when that happens, the community will be ready.

Is it worth fighting for?

Absolutely.

For generations, Logie Coldstone Primary has been more than a school. It has been a place of learning, belonging, and shared experience. Today, it sits silent at the heart of the village—a reminder of what has been lost. But also of what is worth protecting.

We hope the voices of the children playing in the village and performing at assemblies will return in the not distant future.

We may not have won in court. But we stood up. We challenged. We refused to be passive.

And that matters.



Logie Coldstone showed resilience, unity, and courage far beyond its size.

## Viva Logie Coldstone.

Our heartfelt thanks to our legal eagle, Sylvia, and her assistants, Paul, Hitesh, Sarah and Katrina for all the hard work and effort they put into this cause.

## Logie Coldstone Co-Working Hub

We have developed a new co-working hub in the upstairs room at the hall, supported by funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. While some electrical work remains, it's already clear the space will meet a real local need. Interest has come from home workers and others looking for a quiet, well-connected place for studying, life admin, or simply getting things done. The hub will offer a flexible space for a range of uses, and we're exploring links with the Connected Hubs Scotland network. A real highlight has been the community effort behind setting it up, with volunteers coming together to build desks, chairs and tables—a productive and sociable session, and a great example of community spirit in action. If you're interested in using the space, please email: [lctrust2012@gmail.com](mailto:lctrust2012@gmail.com)



## Morven Walk 2025

Walkers were treated to fine clear views for the annual Morven walk, topped off by an enjoyable and celebratory evening at the Airedale, which coincided with Aberdeen FC winning the Scottish Cup Final.



## Fun Games 2025

Fun for all ages was the order of the day at the annual Logie Coldstone Fun Games. We were honoured to have the bairns of Logie Coldstone School raise the flag at the games. Congratulations to trophy winner, George Forfar. Thanks to everyone who took part and who helped set up, tidy up and on the day.



## Burns Supper 2026

Logie Coldstone celebrated the life, poetry, music and songs of our national bard, Robert Burns, with our usual smeddum. This years sold out event was hosted by the Airedale where guests tucked into delicious haggis, neeps and tatties with the haggis being piped in by Katrina Lovie. Rebekka Van Heusden said grace and Sandy Moncur compered the evening with his usual flair while Emma and Daniel and team kept the drinks flowing. We think Robert Burns would have been in his element!



## Friends of Logie Coldstone Pensioners

Another lovely Christmas evening was held at the Airedale in Logie Coldstone, bringing together the wise—and always wonderful—members of our village for a thoroughly enjoyable night.

A big thank you to Emma, Daniel and Patrick for their warm hospitality, excellent food, and very welcome liquid refreshments. Jock opened the evening with the grace, the meal was served, and before long the room was full of chatter, laughter, and the usual healthy level of competitiveness for the quiz! The raffle followed, and we're very grateful for all the generous prize donations—these make a real difference in helping fund next year's meal.

The highlight of the raffle, of course, was the Christmas hamper, which was won by Abigail and Charlotte from Brae Foot, Migvie. Well done to them, and thank you to everyone who bought tickets.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Lucy Lafferty for her help at the "Bring a Party to a Party" event in Tarland, from which we received a kind donation for Logie Coldstone pensioners. Many thanks as well to Gillian Mason for her continued support over the past year.

A special mention goes to Gillean Morrison and family for organising two quiz nights in the hall—the funds raised from these will go directly towards this year's Christmas meal, which is hugely appreciated.

We've also received a number of generous individual donations, and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who has supported us.

If you know of anyone who may be eligible to attend our Christmas evening, please do get in touch—we'd be delighted to add them to our list.

Thank you all once again for your support over the past year. We're already looking forward to doing it all again in November!

Glynis and Kathleen



## Cairngorm Bothies - Scots Pine Rehoming Days

Following the severe storms of January 2022, which caused extensive damage around the bothies, I had hoped for a mast year to support natural regeneration. That hope has been fully realised.

By clearing ground and breaking through the heather layer, conditions became ideal for regeneration, and tree growth has been extremely successful. However, growth is now so dense that, if left unmanaged, the area will soon become impenetrable.

To address this, we invited local stakeholders to collect saplings for re-planting elsewhere. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with people travelling from as far as Ellon and Fraserburgh, alongside local groups and volunteers, to give these young trees a new life.

It is encouraging that something positive has come from what was initially a damaging event.



## Tomnaverie Stone Circle - Malcolm Duckworth

Set within the Howe, the stone circle carries a powerful sense of presence—an enduring link to Neolithic and Bronze Age communities who stood beneath the same constellations over three thousand years ago.

It remains a place of mystery: a gathering point, a possible 'cathedral' or astronomical marker, shaped by an awareness of the sun, moon, and seasons.

Its strength lies in the great recumbent stone and towering uprights, and its quiet reverence is felt most deeply at solstice dawn.

I am here  
a shadow-less circle  
convening mythologies  
unfolded in solitude  
with a long-night moon shifting stars  
for the Earth tilt light.

A Neolithic clock  
Grianstad an Gheimhrìdh  
its fragile correspondence  
a dawn hush on the Howe.

The turn from the light  
cold on my eyes.

North snow folds Presendye  
the stones tilting solstice shadows  
silent masters of time  
reborn in a new moment  
as amber swathes fluoresce  
finding crystal edges.

Primeval voices  
in the morning whisper  
a hymn to ancient gods  
preluding winter.



## Bluebell Sounds and Therapies

**Relax, Reset, Rebalance — Experience a Tibetan Singing Bowl Sound Bath with Bluebell Sounds and Therapies**

Step away from the noise of everyday life and immerse yourself in a deeply calming sound bath experience using traditional Tibetan singing bowls. Their rich, resonant tones have been used for centuries to promote relaxation, reduced stress, and inner harmony.

Each session is designed to help you unwind as the layered vibrations gently wash over you, calming the nervous system and creating a sense of balance and stillness. Whether you're new to sound healing or looking to deepen your wellness practice, this is a space to fully switch off and restore.

Simply lie back, get comfortable, and allow the sounds to guide you into a state of deep rest and clarity.

### **Benefits may include:**

- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Improved sleep
- Enhanced mental clarity
- A profound sense of calm and wellbeing

Sylvia is an Emmett Practitioner, certified in Kinetic Chain Release and a very experienced musician with a wealth of experience of guiding sound baths and giving sound treatments. She works from both Logie Coldstone Community Hall for larger sound baths as well as from her studio in Logie Coldstone for smaller sound baths, sound treatments, muscular release treatments, pain relief and body realignment treatments.

**Join us for an upcoming sound bath in Logie Coldstone Community Hall on a Sunday Evening or for any other treatment by getting in touch with Sylvia on 07941401010 and give yourself the time to reset.**



## The Airedale

Emma and Daniel give a warm welcome at the The Airedale, open Thursday – Sunday. Food served, takeaway meals available for collection, open mic night on a Friday, Sunday Roast every Sunday and look out for their summer schedule of entertainment. Further details on [https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Airedale/61565440753319/?\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Airedale/61565440753319/?_rdr) or 07454 792680.



# NatureScot

## Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve

As I write this, we are basking in some glorious spring sunshine! Which makes a change to the start of this year, which was dismally wet and murky for what felt like an eternity!

I'm not the only one that is enjoying some warmth and sunshine, our adders are now fully out and can be seen in good numbers. They are now starting to shed their skin, a process that happens in Spring when they first emerge. They shed their skin to allow them to grow, and sometimes these skins can be found across the Reserve. You can tell just before an adder sheds its skin, as the eyes become very cloudy, which actually impairs its vision. A freshly shed adder looks very striking with lovely copper-red coloured eyes.

We are seeing plenty of butterflies on the wing now, especially Peacock and Small-tortoiseshell butterflies. It won't be long till we spot the first Orange Tip, Small Copper and Pearl-bordered Fritillary (a nationally rare butterfly).

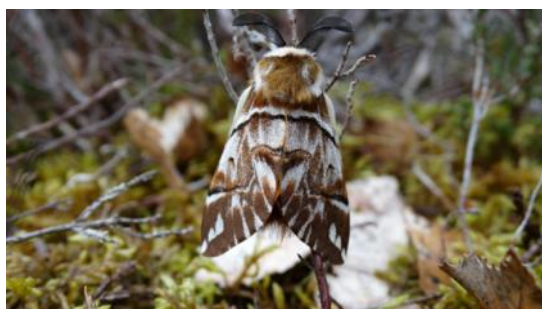
Muir of Dinnet NNR is also one of the best places in the UK to see Kentish Glory moth. This specialist moth requires young birch trees for its lifecycle, and thankfully Muir of Dinnet provides plenty of birch and lightly-wooded moorland which are its habitat preferences. They are very beautiful! It's a large, distinctive moth with orange-brown, chocolate brown, and white marking.

The breeding season is also underway for many species of birds. Our nationally important population of Goldeneye have started to lay eggs, and many of our woodland birds are now looking for nest sites. Species like Blackbird, Stonechat and Treecreeper may already have young. We are now welcoming our 'summer migrants' on the NNR. We have already had our first Willow Warbler, Tree Pipit, Chiffchaff, Sand Martin, Osprey and Swallow. We expect our first Blackcap, Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler, House Martin, Swift and Cuckoo in the coming days and weeks!

We will be running a variety of events throughout the coming season. They can be found advertised on our facebook page 'Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve' or by emailing [Muir\\_Dinnet@nature.scot](mailto:Muir_Dinnet@nature.scot).

I am always keen to have a blether, so if you are ever passing the Burn O' Vat Visitor Centre or see me on the Reserve, feel free to pop-by for a chat!

All the best! Hopefully I will see you out and about enjoying the Reserve this summer!  
Simon Ritchie, NatureScot Nature Reserve Manager  
Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve, [Simon.Ritchie@nature.scot](mailto:Simon.Ritchie@nature.scot)



# Meet the Logie Coldstone Trust Committee

## Hitesh

**1. What is your name?** Hitesh Mitchell-Mehta

**2. What is your committee role?** I'm the Chairperson of the Logie Coldstone Trust, helping to guide the committee and keep things moving in the right direction. I work closely with the rest of the team to support our plans, make decisions, and keep everything running smoothly. I'm also very hands-on when it comes to our community events—whether that's running the kids races at the Fun Games, getting my feet wet at the Duck Race, or just mucking in on the day. It's all about making sure things come together and everyone has a great time.

**3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** I help keep things organised and moving forward, chair meetings, and make sure everyone has a chance to have their say. A big part of my role is working with the rest of the committee to turn ideas into action.

**4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** Apart from my smile, I bring a practical, "get stuck in" attitude and like to help find solutions when things get tricky. I'm good at bringing people together, keeping things on track, and making sure we actually get things done—not just talk about them! I also bring a bit of energy and enthusiasm, especially when it comes to community events.

**5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** You'll find me anywhere that brings people together and creates a good community spirit including the Badminton Group and Curling Club

**6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** I wanted to give something back to the community and be part of keeping it active and connected. The Trust does a lot of great work locally, and it felt like a good way to get involved, meet people, and help make a positive difference.

**7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** Every year is a bit of a rollercoaster with too many highs and lows to mention. However, I do love a bit of karaoke at the curling club bothy – I will let you decide if that is a high or a low.



## Trevor

**1. What is your name?** Trevor Bint

**2. What is your committee role?** General dogsbody

**3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** As question no.2

**4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** Home made wine!

**5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** Finger in several pies

**6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** Arm twisted

**7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** Climbing Morven, unblocking the gent's toilets.



## Thanks to Evelyn "Evie" Smith

After many years of service, Evie has retired from the Logie Coldstone Trust. Evie has made a significant contribution over the years, giving her time, energy and good sense to the Trust and the community. Many thanks to Evie for all she has done - we wish her well for the future.



*"Evie tries to slip away quietly..."*

## Sandra

- 1. What is your name?** Sandra Van Heusden
- 2. What is your committee role?** A willing “jack of all trades”
- 3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** I support communications and am always happy to help wherever needed—whether that’s drafting content, lending a hand at events, or general gofer duties.
- 4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** Strong communication skills, a creative streak (including the occasional comical digital image ), and a willingness to muck in.
- 5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** Trustee - Tarland Development Group; Secretary - Cromar History Group; Befriender Kincardine & Deeside Befriending; First Aider - local events including Tarland Show ,Food & Music Festival; and involvement in community initiatives such as apple pressing, Potato and Seed Swap, Community Flowers.
- 6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** Initially, Trevor’s wine may have played a small part... but in all seriousness, it's the fantastic work the Trust does in bringing the community together, that really motivated me to get involved.
- 7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** A definite highlight has been working with Katrina and Gillean on the newsletter. As for a low... none so far, although being asked to sum myself up in this format comes close!



## Julie

- 1. What is your name?** Julie Mitchell-Mehta
- 2. What is your committee role?** As I avoid working with my husband, I’m not actually on the committee but I organise key events for the community alongside the committee.
- 3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** I organise the Hogmanay Ceilidh and the summer Fun Games and get involved in the organising and promoting of other events such as the Burns Supper and Morven Walk.
- 4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** I have a marketing background so that helps with organising and promoting events, including posting information to social media. I set up the Logie Coldstone TikTok account and created fun videos challenging the typical perceptions of rural life, when we were trying to attract families to the area to keep the school open.
- 5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** I attend book group and usually even read the books. I’ve also been curling a couple of times and regularly add to the suffering at the curling club karaoke nights.
- 6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** After Covid, a few of us decided it was important to have a focal point to get the community together and so we resurrected the Fun Games and the Ceilidh as social events for all ages.
- 7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** When I was chair of the parent council of the primary school I led the campaign to keep the school open. The many sleepless nights and terrible treatment by the council were definitely a low, but the last minute decision to keep it open was a big high. The games marquee blowing onto the road was another low but seeing everyone having fun in the field on a sunny Saturday in June made it worthwhile.



## Katrina

- 1. What is your name?** Katrina Lovie
- 2. What is your committee role?** Anything and athing.
- 3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** I type up the committee meeting minutes live on the big screen (aye, nae pressure ava!), keep on tap o correspondence, pit the newsletter thegithir wi the talented newsletter team, and get stuck inti grant applications an aa the mair “geeky” bits - plans, strategies, an siclike.
- 4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** Spikkin Doric (north east Scots); gien the pipes/ agony bags a blaw and bringing my ‘tardis’ backpack AKA portable bar to community events.
- 5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** Yi’ll see me at the LCPRG / Sunday mornin waalkin group, the gairdenin group, ELSIE/readin group, an the LC Community Café – far yi’ll find fine folk, fine pieces, an hae a fine news.
- 6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** That wid be Anne and Joyce – they steered the Trust through the muckle hall renovation back in 2013 an got the Community Café up an rinnin.
- 7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** Highs? Plenty! Savin the school back in 2011, the Phil an Aly concerts in 2016 an 2017, an aa the high jinks an comical capers at trust committee meetings. And of course, the weekly high ivry Sunday mornin thanks to Sherpa T’s “herbal tonics”... say nae mair. A low wis last year fan the school wis mothballed, despite aa the wark an legal efforts tae try an stop it. That wis a sair een. But I’m ay the optimist - I still hae hope we’ll see the doors open again an the community thrivin.



## Pat, Gillean, Joyce and Anne

Not everyone was able (or willing!) to complete our questionnaire, but the Trust simply wouldn't function without the ongoing work of Pat, Gillean, Joyce and Anne. **Pat** plays a central role in coordinating the ELSIE reading group and the fantastic team of volunteers who run the monthly Community Café—both much valued parts of community life. **Gillean**, a former Chair, continues to contribute with her legendary quiz-master skills, organising popular fundraising quizzes for the Trust and other good causes. **Joyce** has supported the Trust for many years, always keeping an eye on the bigger picture. She was instrumental in getting the Community Café up and running and remains a steady and thoughtful presence. **Anne** has been a part of a group behind some of the Trust's most significant work, from overseeing the major hall upgrade to the careful and necessary task of updating the Trust's constitution. Her commitment, attention to detail, and strong sense of doing the right thing have inspired many others to get involved.



## Thanks to Paul Mather

Paul has recently stepped down as a trustee of the Logie Coldstone Trust. During his time with us, he made a significant contribution, bringing real energy, insight, and a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. In particular, Paul led the solar panel and battery installation at the community hall - securing funding and guiding the project through its challenges with quiet determination and care. His work has left a lasting benefit for the community. Our thanks to Paul for all he has done. We hope to work together again in the future.



## Sylvia

**1. What is your name?** Sylvia Anderson

**2. What is your committee role?** Bookings secretary, clearing up messes (aka Mrs Mop) and general dogsbody.

**3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** I make bookings for the community Hall, invoice the bookings and clean the hall. I attend most of the meetings.

**4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** Mostly a sense of humour and winding up Hitesh. Cleaning up messes whether they be muddy, legal or otherwise.

**5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** Craft group, Women's Institute, Ceilidh Band at Hogmanay, Bingo caller, Christmas Decorations, community cafe baking, occasionally I'll pop in and help the baby and toddler group. I used to run the baby and toddler group for about ten years. I was also Chair person for the School parent council for a while.

**6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** I was the representative for the school and toddler group and so started attending meetings. It wasn't so bad, so I continued. I love being part of a friendly and active community, so I wanted to be part of building it too.

**7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** Probably more highs than lows, literal highs might be putting the star on the Christmas tree, emotional highs include giving the grant application a shot with a couple of days notice and actually getting a really good award, designing the co-working hub and getting the judicial review into the court. Lows...well that really only happens when occasionally non committee members criticise the good work we do (seriously just don't do it...please just pitch in if you can see a better way to do things, you're always welcome).



## Sue

**1. What is your name?** Sue

**2. What is your committee role?** Treasurer

**3. Briefly describe what you do within the committee?** Watch the pennies, wag my finger, and keep the committee and accountant as happy as possible.

**4. What extras do you bring to the Trust?** A silent cog in the works of a great team of volunteers - usually I am a creature of the day, and miss the evening committee meetings! But I helped create the Garden Club, which is mostly a Sunday blether Club. I am supported by a hearty core of locals, and it is a great way of welcoming residents new and old in a very informal way, and often has nothing to do with gardening.

**5. What community groups or activities are you involved with?** As well as Gardening Club, I occasionally join the Sunday walking group, and discovering walks I never knew. I get a real buzz giving out cash prizes at the annual Fun Games, and Duck Race.

**6. What motivated you to become involved with the trust?** I was volunteered! But don't regret being part of something so worthwhile, I have made many good and valuable friends, and social interaction and support is heart warming.

**7. Can you name a high and a low of your time helping with the trust?** The highs are when we all pull together, and people are all smiles (and the sun shines) I don't think I can choose one high. My lows were before my hero Hitesh introduced Xero Accounting, and I can do nearly everything from an app on my iPad! Simple pleasures



# Sugar, Sherpas and Solar Panels: A Ballad of Logie Coldstone

Oh Logie Coldstone, jewel of the Howe,  
Small on the map — but it runs things somehow.  
Blink and you'll miss it (don't sneeze as you pass),  
But stay for an hour and you're wrapped in the sass.

First Friday? Cancel your plans. Clear your slate.  
The Community Café is destiny — not fate.  
Toddlers with crumbs and OAP royalty,  
All queue in devotion and fierce loyalty.

The cakes rise higher than Morven's crown,  
Victoria sponge that could anchor the town.  
Coffee so strong it could resurrect kings,  
And Trevor appears — with sacks of sweet things.

"Sugar?" he asks. (As if "no" is a choice.)  
He pours it like snowfall with generous voice.  
Three spoons? Four? A geological layer?  
You'll vibrate home gently, but frankly — who cares?

And it's all free. Yes, FREE. Not a trick.  
Just volunteers powered by tea and relentless goodwill grit.  
Where gossip flows faster than tea from the pot,  
And you leave knowing who's done what — and who definitely has not.

Then the LC Path Recce Group gathers its flock,  
Led by Sherpa Trevor at ten on the dot.  
Boots laced tight, maps folded wrong,  
Terriers bounding and Collie dogs strong.

We scale modest hills like Himalayan feats,  
Discuss life, the universe — and blisters on feet.  
There's culture, there's wisdom, there's talk of the weather,

And I only attend for the homemade wine, if we're honest together.

Next stop: the Airedale, beacon of cheer,  
Where music nights ring out far and near.  
Burns suppers booming with haggis and rhyme,  
Quiz nights exposing your ignorance in record time.



Drop the Mic evenings? Oh, brave and bold —  
Poets and singers from eight to eighty years old.  
Food that hugs you. Laughter that sticks.  
Atmosphere thicker than Trevor's wine mix.

Curling Club season — frost in the air,  
Serious faces and strategic glare.  
Stones glide smooth while champions sweep,  
And I guard the Bothy where the log burner's deep.

Why freeze on the ice in competitive strife,  
When karaoke indoors gives meaning to life?  
Nothing says "sporting tradition" quite right  
Like belting out ABBA on a Curling night.

Gardening Club? Oh yes, we convene.  
Armed with good will and a vague plan for green.  
There's more enthusiastic chat than digging of beds,  
More tea refills poured than onions in sheds.

But weeds, I'll admit, do tremble in fear  
When Trevor unveils his latest home brew this year.  
Spurred on by wine of dubious might,  
We deadhead and prune... eventually. Right?

And at the heart of it all, standing proud and tall,  
Is the mighty Logie Coldstone Hall.  
Solar panels gleam in eco delight,  
Harnessing Aberdeenshire's two hours of light.

From sports to meetings, from ceilidhs to sales,  
From toddler chaos to committee tales,  
It hums with life in a village so small  
You'll swear no one's a stranger — just late to the call.

Yes, Logie Coldstone — blink and you'll miss it,  
But dare to step in and you'll never dismiss it.  
It's chat over action, it's cake over fuss,  
It's dogs, wine, music — and far too much trust.

It's sugar by the shovel, it's home brew by stealth,  
It's community spirit disguised as good health.  
And if you should wander through one sunny day —  
Don't worry. You'll stay.

.....Trevor will see to that!



*By the Bard of Corrachree*





# Membership Application Form for Logie Coldstone Trust

## Aims of Logie Coldstone Trust

Logie Coldstone Trust is a registered charity which aims to foster active citizenship, social activities, community spirit, community wellbeing and development. The Trust owns and manages Logie Coldstone Hall and is run entirely by volunteers. Full details can be found at [www.logiecoldstone.org](http://www.logiecoldstone.org)

## Become a member of Logie Coldstone Trust

Logie Coldstone Trust is a membership based organisation. Membership is open to anyone who is aged 18 years or over, resident in the polling district of Logie Coldstone and supports the aims of the Trust. By becoming a member you can:

- Affirm your support of the Trust's aims
- Help shape the future of the community
- Enjoy discounted member rates for hall hire

Please complete and return the application form below to:

- The hall postbox (at small hall door)
- By scanning/photographing the completed form and emailing to [lctrust2012@gmail.com](mailto:lctrust2012@gmail.com)

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

I wish to become a member of the above named company and confirm that I am 18 years or over, am resident in the polling district of Logie Coldstone and support the aims of the Trust.

I understand that, as a member of Logie Coldstone Trust, **my liability will be limited to £1 (one pound).**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

*All data collected from these forms is for the use of the Logie Coldstone Trust only and will not be divulged to any other party unless it is a statutory requirement.*