



Introduction



As the new Chair of KCDC, I am delighted to update you all on our activities and achievements over the past year and I look forward to continuing to support Kingussie through KCDC in the years to come.

On behalf of many of us in the community and all of us at KCDC, I

extend our deepest gratitude and thanks to outgoing Chair Ian Moffett, for his leadership and commitment to KCDC and Kingussie over the past decade.

Bob Kinnaird also stepped down from the board of directors and we thank him for his time and dedication and endless path building energy!

Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC) was established in 2006 to manage community land and assets for Kingussie's benefit.

Over the years, KCDC has enhanced our local area through initiatives like the community hydro scheme, woodland and path maintenance and driving larger town projects.

Profits from the hydro scheme are redistributed into the local community through the Hydro Fund enabling local organisations to deliver projects and activities to positively benefit our community.

This year we have enclosed a list of local clubs and organisations. If you would like to be included in this list in the future or to contact us for any other reason, please email:

info@kcdc.co.uk

Hydro Anniversary

In his 1887 essay Pastoral, Robert Louis Stevenson called the River Gynack "*The golden burn that pours and sulks in the den behind Kingussie.*"

On February 15th, we marked the 10th anniversary of the community Hydro on the "golden burn." Nearly 80 people joined us for a hydro tour and a bowl of soup at Kingussie Golf Club.

It was great meeting you all – thank you for your support!



The Hydro project was the vision of the late Donnie Grant, KCDC's first Chair, who was a passionate advocate for the environment and our community.

From the start, local volunteers managed the commissioning and construction, and that same spirit continues today.

Volunteers handle maintenance and daily operations and if you're near the hydro bridge, look down and you might spot them hard at work.

Stop for a chat, and who knows? You might end up joining in.

Hydropower has shaped the Gynack for a century. The current scheme uses an old weir from a 1920s hydro plant that powered St. Vincent's Hospital.

Today, the energy created powers Kingussie Golf Club and surplus feeds into the national grid. Hydro income funds community projects through KCDC's Hydro Fund.

Hydro Fund

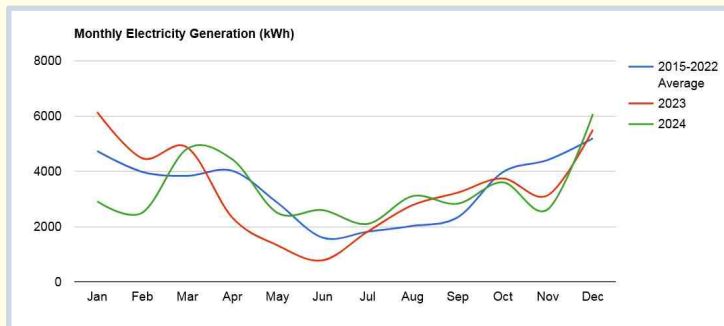
In 2024, £21,000 was granted to support 14 projects including the Tennis Club, Shinty Club, Festival of Words, Food and Film Festival, the High School, Primary School and the new Repair Café.

Since 2017, over £100,000 has been invested in local community projects and activities. Visit our website if your group needs funding for a community project!

Hydro Report: A Smooth Year

Since its commissioning in 2015, the KCDC Hydro has been a cornerstone of sustainable energy in our community. This year, once again, operations have been running smoothly, with no unplanned shutdowns apart from a couple of short power cuts and a day lost because the Gynack froze over.

Although overall output this year was slightly down on the best of previous years, the Hydro continues to deliver around 40,000 kWh per year, as projected at the time of the original design. KCDC has now reached the halfway point in the payment of the feed-in tariff, which will continue until 2035.



There was a planned shutdown in May in that involved replacing another 2 of the 6 Coanda inlet screens.

The performance of the hydro is critically dependent on the efficiency of these screens, some of which were damaged by ex-Hurricane Berth in 2014 and in subsequent spates.

The worst two were removed and replaced in 2020. They were then repaired and strengthened by our local blacksmith, Davie Cameron and re-fitted by volunteers. This involved diverting the water to one side of the river with sandbags and removing screen sections to get into the chamber underneath.

Needless to say, some of our stalwart volunteers got very wet!

Whilst the screen chamber was open, a plate was installed to improve the flow of water into the pipe that feeds the turbine. This work has improved the performance at both low and high river levels.

In particular, during the December 2024 spate, the turbine did not suddenly lose power in the way that it had done in the past.

In addition, the Pitmain flood alleviation scheme that was commissioned in the summer has played a crucial role in maintaining a steady flow for the Hydro during heavy rainfall by diverting water through Loch Gynack.

This year we have also improved accessibility and safety at the Hydro, with the installation of a walkway and safety line stanchions. As a result, the routine task of clearing boulders from the top of the weir to maintain the correct water flow distribution was completed very efficiently by the efforts of the volunteers in the paths group.

Looking ahead to next year, the Hydro will undergo an assessment of future maintenance requirements and arrangements for long term operational support. This will help ensure its continued smooth operation for the next 10 years (and beyond?).

As we reflect on another successful year, we extend our thanks to everyone involved in maintaining and improving this vital community asset. Here's to another year of smooth running!

Paths Update

Kingussie's network of paths has seen a remarkable transformation over the past few years, thanks to the hard work of volunteers from the paths group.



Highlights from 2024 have included significant work on the Golf Course Circular and Creag Bheag paths. The paths group also contributed to the Glebe Ponds project, in partnership with Kingussie and Vicinity Community Council and have been able to repurpose the boardwalk to create new benches that are situated around the path system.

Another highlight was the publication and launch of the paths leaflet covering Kingussie and surrounding paths. With 10,000 copies distributed so far, it has been warmly received by locals and

visitors alike, helping to guide walkers through the area's stunning landscapes.

Recently, volunteers have been hard at work on the path to Raitts and have recently reviewed the five-year rolling paths plan.



Priorities for 2025 include renewing the steps from the Hydro to Ardbroilach Road and enhancing the north side of the Creag Bheag path.

With so much achieved and more to come, the future of Kingussie's paths is looking brighter than ever.

You can review the paths plan, make comments and suggestions and sign up to the paths group email on our website.

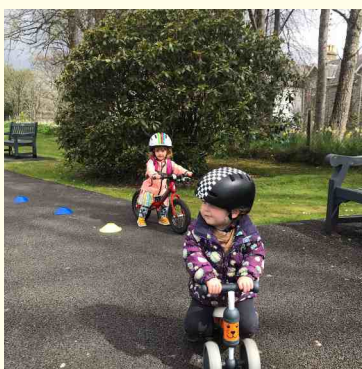
Cycle Friendly Kingussie

We returned to Glen Tromie for the 2024 edition of the Bikeathon, moving the mid-point entertainment a bit further down the glen to make it more accessible for some of our family riders.

The event saw some challenging weather conditions, so we were glad of this decision. Once again, there was the climb over from Glen Feshie as an option for more ambitious riders.

We introduced a balance bike element, with a trip out to Tromie Bridge for our mini riders and with funding from Sustrans Scotland we were also able to team up with **Able2Adventure** and offer some adaptive cycles, making it the most inclusive event yet!

This year's Bikeathon, on the 15th of June 2025, will see a change to the route, incorporating some on and off-road elements, and once again featuring the stunning scenery of Glen Feshie.



Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon. The adaptive cycles and balance bike ride will feature again this year.

The "balance bike picnics" continued last year and were a great success with up to 20

little riders circulating around the Gynack Gardens. These will return on the first Sunday of the month from April.

Tuesday evening ride outs also continue throughout the year, meeting at 18:30 at the Gynack Gardens. We also host a road ride on the first Sunday of the month.

Head over to the CFK Facebook page for updates.

The ebike loan scheme continues and if you are interested in giving an e-bike a try for 6 weeks, application forms can be found at:

www.cyclefriendlykingussie.co.uk

Woodlands

Kingussie Community Woodlands are part of the River Spey Special Area of Conservation and extend from just below the Golf Course to The Cross.

They are owned by KCDC on behalf of the community and managed and maintained by volunteers.

They provide a rich habitat for birds. Robins, chaffinches, blackbirds, tree creepers, coal tits, great tits, blue tits, wrens, willow warblers and woodpeckers are regularly spotted. Inhabitants also include moths, butterflies, bats, red squirrels and roe deer.

KCDC has planted saplings, including hawthorn, willow, apple, and holly which further enrich the woodland.

This past year we have seen a small amount of ash die-back but the encouraging growth of oaks, Scots pine and hopefully some aspen.

Our woodland management tasks have included fence repairs and improving accessibility by clearing and cleaning the railway sleeper steps past The Cross and adding reflective strips to the steps leading down from Gynack Road to the bridge at The Cross.

We have continued with regular litter picking, clearing debris from paths, and removing leaves from bridges. Deadwood is left standing where possible to support wildlife.

We have also made efforts to control non-native species, including sycamore and snowberry.

We thank everyone involved in taking care of the woodlands, particularly Gilmour and Susan Strang for their continued dedication and hard work.

Spey Street Junction



We are delighted to have delivered this key civil project in collaboration with Highland Council and Sustrans.

Thanks are due to the Highland Council's Active Travel and Road Safety teams who managed the programme of works.

Having constructed a pavement and provided a clear route to and from the station to the town via the recently upgraded gardens, the junction offers a sense of arrival for travellers to and from Kingussie. The project also creates much needed and welcomed traffic calming at a very busy junction between both schools.

We are grateful to 'Strath Civil Engineering' for their professional engagement and practice in delivering the project for the town.

To be able to attract inward investment to Kingussie is no mean feat and we regard it as a significant achievement for the community.



Kingussie Community Development Company Membership Application Form

Join KCDC as an Ordinary Member by completing the following form and sending it by email to membership@kcdc.co.uk or by post to KCDC, 15-17 High Street, Kingussie, PH21 1HS.

Full Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone number:

Email Address:

Membership subscriptions and donations can be paid by BACS bank transfer to Account No. 06001925 Sort Code: 80-05-40 (use your name as the reference) or enclose a cheque made payable to Kingussie Community Development Company:

£

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Gift Aid allows us to claim back 25p of tax for every £1 you give

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like Kingussie Community Development Company to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made, as well as any future donations, until I notify them otherwise (**please tick**):

☐

I understand that if I pay less income / capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year in which they are received, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please remember to let us know of any changes to your tax status including changes to your name or address or if you need to cancel this agreement.

Privacy Statement

We will hold your name and contact details within our Register of Members for as long as you remain a member. If you tick the Gift Aid box above we will provide your name and address to HMRC as part of reclaiming the tax. For further information about how we manage personal data please view our Privacy Policy at <https://kcdc.co.uk/privacy-policy>

Signature:

Date:

Memberships

The annual membership fee of £2, together with any donation, helps to support the day-to-day running of KCDC and enables us to maximise the community benefits to Kingussie and the surrounding area.

If you would like to become a member, volunteer or simply make a donation visit:

www.kcdc.co.uk/get-involved

Or scan the QR code below using your smart phone or tablet.



Alternatively, complete the adjacent application form and post or hand in, together with cash or a cheque to:

KCDC
c/o Goldwells
15-17 High Street
Kingussie
PH21 1HS

Thank You!