Cairngorms 2030 Communities Fund

Taing dhan | Made possible with A' Mhaoin-Dualchais Heritage Fund

The Cairngorms 2030 Communities Fund supports individuals, community groups, organisations and local partnerships to deliver projects that benefit people, places and nature within the Cairngorms National Park.

Big ideas. Local benefit. Climate action.

There are three types of fund:

- **Small grants** (£500-£5,000) which can be applied for any time
- **Medium grants** (£5,000-£50,000) awarded three times per year
- **Large grants** (£50,000-£100,000) awarded twice over the two years

Whether your project is helping people connect with nature, improving wellbeing, supporting more sustainable travel, or empowering local people to adapt to the changing climate, we want to hear from you.

Scan this QR code to express your interest or apply for a grant. The large grants open in November!



Mar Lodge Estate © VisitScotland / Jakub Iwanicki

Funding recipient, Listening to Soil project

Small grants will be processed by the Park Authority grants team on a rolling basis. Other funding decisions will be made by a paid forum of people 11 people who live in and love the National Park.

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Our Cairngorms 2030 Communities Fund in action

Here are some examples of successful small grant applications.

Lonely Larch Leatherwork successfully applied for funds to purchase a belt grinder so that he can develop his heritage craft skills further and share these with the wider community.



Lonely Larch Leatherwork



Grantown-on-Spey

Clare Waddle and Joanna Wilson are receiving funding for a winter programme of three art exhibitions called PANE: After Dark. PANE will bring activity to Grantown-on-Spey High Street and engage residents and visitors, encouraging conversation about rural futures.

Broughdearg Farm was granted funds to purchase a fruit cage in order create a kitchen garden which will offer volunteer days and supply fruit to the local community.



Volunteering

Cairngorms Community-Led Vision Fund

The Cairngorms Community Led Vision Fund was established by the Cairngorms Trust and the Cairngorms National Park Authority. The fund aims are to deliver inclusive community-based activity to meet one or more Scottish Government's key priorities:

- Tackling the climate emergency
- Eradicating child poverty
- Growing the economy
- Ensuring high quality and sustainable public services

Local priority: cultural heritage, recreation and supporting communities

The fund will seek to support projects and actions that are not supported from other national programme funds or financial allocations.

We encourage applications for projects that will deliver for the communities of the Cairngorms National Park.

All projects will need to be completed by 1 March 2027.

Scan this QR code to express your interest via the Cairngorms Trust website.



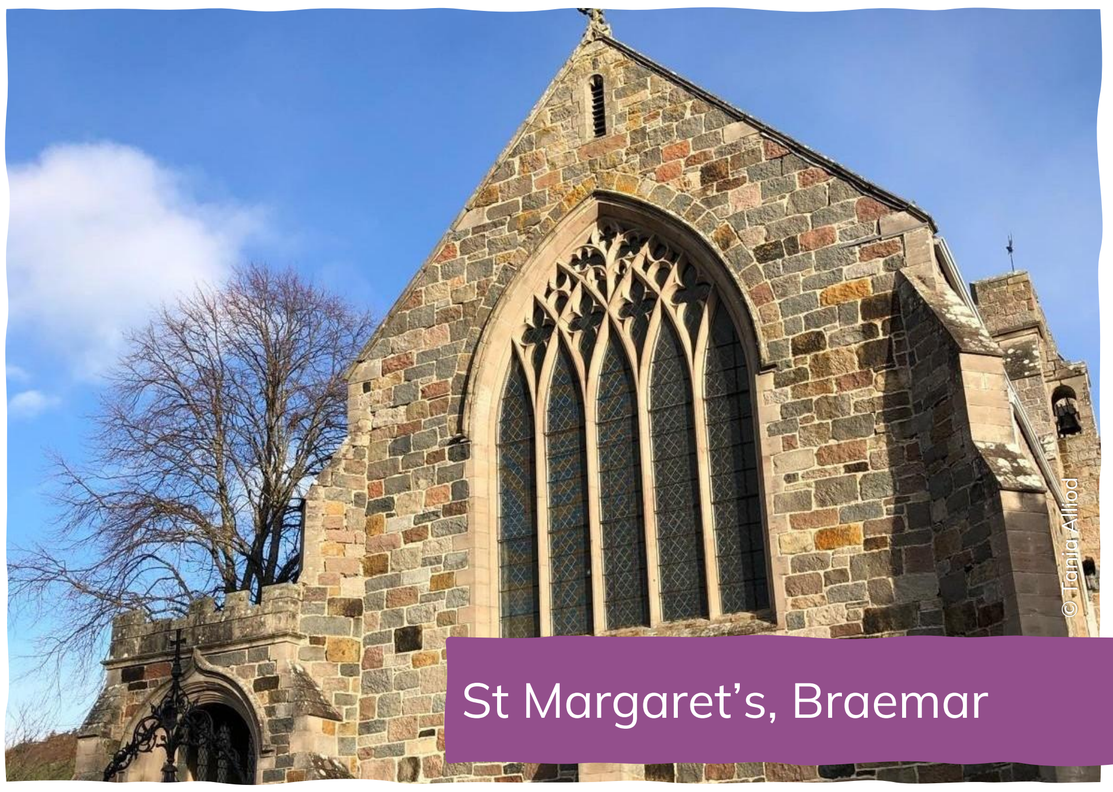
Funding recipient, Castle Roy Trust

Supported by the Cairngorms Trust and the Scottish Government in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the National Lottery Heritage Fund

The Community-Led Vision Fund in action

The Community Led Vision fund distributes grants to projects across all areas of the National Park.

Historic Churches Scotland was awarded funds to repair St Margaret's Church as an important landmark and venue for community and cultural events.



St Margaret's, Braemar



Strathspey Camanachd

Strathspey Camanachd received funding to support their Development Officer role to focus on increasing youth participation in the cultural heritage sport of shinty across Grantown on Spey and surrounding villages.

Blair Atholl Watermill was granted funds to fully restore the Brace Shot Waterwheel so that the mill could operate again and continue to be a key heritage attraction.



Blair Atholl

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Supporting the cultural heritage sector

First Steps

We consulted local cultural heritage practitioners about their needs and ambitions. A key recommendation was that the Park Authority fund and facilitate the development and delivery of a National Park-wide cultural heritage event.



Waulking group © Rachel Connolly



Cultural heritage event © Josie Slade

Developing the network

A renumerated working group was recruited to design the event. It was held in October 2025 and brought together 65 cultural heritage practitioners to shape their network and plan their next steps – including holding another event in October 2026.

Providing funding

At the same time, the Park Authority launched a Communities and Cultural Heritage Fund administered by the Cairngorms Trust. It distributed £65,000 across 11 projects last year and has just reopened for applications.



Stathdon heritage hub © Park Authority

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Our Communities and Cultural Heritage Fund in action

Earlier this year the cultural heritage fund distributed around £65,000 to different projects across the National Park.



© Catriona Parmenter Photography

Documenting artefacts, Glenmore



© VisitAberdeenshire / Damian Shields

Digitising archives, Braemar


© Brenna Jessie

Supporting musicians at Fèis Spè...


© Cairn Media

...and artists, Grantown-on-Spey


© Alaska Stikova

Preserving stories, Cairngorms Agri-connections


© IRL Education

Celebrating traditional skills, Kingussie

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