

LUMPHANAN PATHS GROUP WEBSITE – NEWS, PROJECTS & EVENTS ARCHIVE

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News archive

2024

Stothill forest operations: plans afoot opposite Satan's Den!

April 2024: Lumphanan Paths Group (LPG) members met with Fred Drion of Highfield Forestry near Satan's Den on 1st April 2024. It had come to our notice that work was planned to start in early April with the building of an access road through the Stothill Wood, prior to extracting forest timber. You may have noticed that work has now started.



Read [here](#) about the historic road through the forest and plans to protect it during the construction of the new forest access road and timber felling operations.

New strimmers thanks to local financial support!

April 2024: The group has bought two powerful battery operated strimmers to assist us in path clearing! The purchase was enabled by grants from Marr Area Committee, NESCAN Just Transition seed funding, The Bread of Life in Torphins topped up by about £370 of well supported local fundraising. Grateful thanks to all for this help towards our purchase – the Group will put the strimmers to good use!



More stories from Lumphanan's past



Following on from our article about crofts on Stot Hill (see the [People and Places](#) page) George Lawrie reminisces about his childhood at Cairn Mude croft in the early to mid 20th Century.

This once busy place is now hidden amongst modern forestry, but sit quietly amongst the ruins and you can visualise the bustle of 14 people living in a tiny farm house, toiling away on the land and making ends meet.

Read his story [here](#)



2023

Hard working volunteers clear popular Church path

July 2023

On Sunday 20th July the Church path has enjoyed a good haircut along the edges so widening the path! Jocky Ritchies' seat has also emerged from the beech hedge. The goodly band of volunteers have cut and raked at the bracken!

Thank you to everyone who turned up to help!



Support your local paths group! Greeting cards, post cards and book marks for sale!

May 2023

Fundraising initiative: Help support your local paths group with their ongoing efforts to maintain our lovely network of tracks around the village.

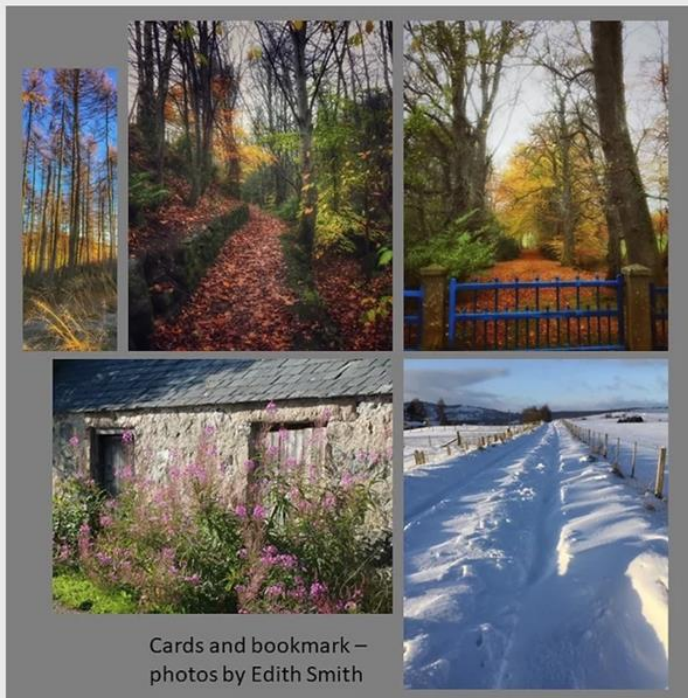
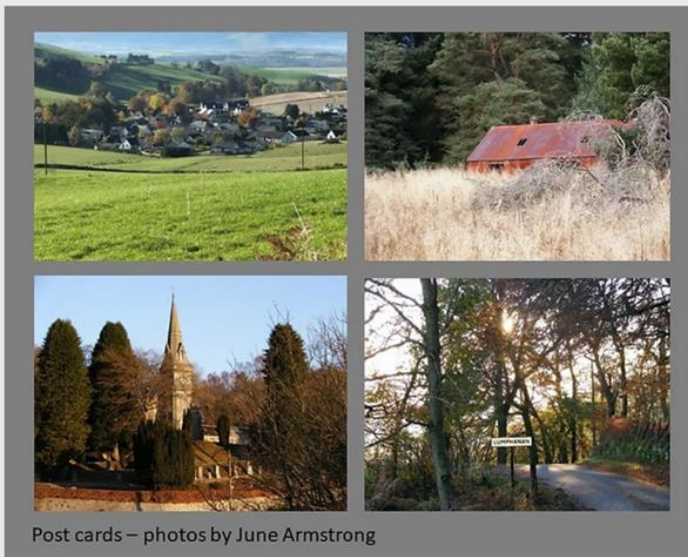
We've put together a collection of greeting cards (blank), post cards and a bookmark showing scenes of our beautiful local area.

We launched the collection at our Fundraising Quiz Night at Deeside Activity Park Friday, 26th May at 7.00pm. Greetings cards will be for sale at the event, and in local venues shortly.

Cards: £2.50 each or five for £10.00.

Post cards: £1.50

Bookmark: £1.00



History on a Highway - illustrated talk:
7.30pm, 9 March 2023, MacRobert Hall, Tarland



Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

Drama and history from the hill tracks around Lumphanan!
What part has Lumphanan played in the story of Scotland
and what about fascinating tales of ordinary folk of the
parish?

Kings, travelling folk, and kidnapers, they are all there !

More details here:

<https://www.cromarhistorygroup.org.uk/talks/>

The strangled trees of Doss have been freed!

March 2023: Lumphanan Paths Group members and some
volunteers have removed all the neglected, over tight tree
tubes from the young trees along the Deeside Way heading
west from Doss to Aboyne. Thanks to all those who helped!



2022

The Mortlich March !



December 2022

A happy meeting of the Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group with Lumphanan Paths Group to walk the old route from Mortlich Cottage towards Tarland. The Groups stopped at the march gate into the woods and finished with cuppas and fine pieces on the top of Little Hill. Great views and good company!



Little Hill - tin for a cuppa a take in the vi



Towards Lumphanan from Little Hill



Aboyne from Little Hill



Mortlich Cottage

Tales from Stot Hill: what is hidden in the forest?

November 2022

In our latest People and Places article, Ann Raeburn peels back the cloak of forestry to reveal a fascinating insight into the secrets of Stot Hill, and life around Lumphanan in the early to mid 20th century, through the experiences of George Smith. Read his story [here](#).



Nestrans case study for the Comply project - available on line!

October 2022

Thanks to Nestrans, Lumphanan Paths Group was awarded funds to drain and clear the Comply and repair the bridge. Nestrans have written up a case study on the successful re-opening of the Comply here: <https://www.nestrans.org.uk/funding/case-studies/>

The Comply is a Heritage Path which runs between Roadside, south of the old school, westwards to Milton of Auchenhove, seen here on a 1912 map: <https://scotways.com/heritage-path/#zoom=14&lat=57.1173&lon=-2.7225>

Fit hae we here - anither seat?



August 2022: Here are relatives of the late Betty and Allan Moir on the Comply. If you don't know the lovely story of Betty and Allan, read about it here on our [People and Places](#) page. The family commissioned this beautiful bench, made by Jack Nesbit-Blacksmith to stand guard over the old track. A little ceremony was enjoyed by residents local to the Comply. Chair of Lumphanan Paths Group, Linda Gray, thanked contractors who had helped to repair drainage, hang gates, mend a bridge and fell trees to clear the track.

The Comply is a Heritage Path which runs between Roadside, south of the old school, westwards to Milton of Auchenhove, seen here on a 1912 map: <https://scotways.com/heritage-path/#zoom=14&lat=57.1173&lon=-2.7225>

Go hae a seat – the view is good for the soul!

The inscription on the bench



*Daughter and son,
Barbara and Allan*



The ceremony

The Comply Heritage Path Project update

June 2022:

In the days before the Old Schoolhouse was closed in the 1960's, The Comply was used for many years by children from the west side of Lumphanan to reach school. It is recognised as a [Heritage Path](#) by Scotways. Recent improvements include drainage and vegetation clearance, and future tasks include gates, fencing and fixing the footbridge. You can read more about the project [here](#) and on our [Projects](#) page.



Bartholomew Map
1934.
Reproduced with
the permission of
the National
Library of
Scotland
<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>



Before



After

There is still work to be done but the Comply is a pleasure to walk again!

We are grateful to all our volunteers, and to Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, ScotWays, Tesco and NESTRANS for helping to fund this project.



nestrans

TESCO
Community Grants

AGM - 18 May 2022

Our AGM took place recently - the minutes and chairperson's report of our achievements can be found [here](#).

A Traveller's Friend - read about local lady Maggie McGregor



April 2022: On the [People and Places](#) page you'll find our latest article.

Maggie McGregor was a well known lady throughout Deeside, being writer to the local auctioneer, selling livestock and rousing out the contents of farms. Read more [here](#).

The article was printed in the Cromar History Group Annual publication "Echoes from Cromar's Past" 2003. It is reprinted with the Editor's full permission.

Do you remember your Skweel days? Growing up on a croft - Part 2 - is now available!

February 2022: On the [People and Places](#) page you'll find Part 2 of the story of the Paterson family who lived at Oldtown Croft near Lumphanan. Read about school days and early working life in the 1950's and 60's. Full of stories and photos. See if you can spot any familiar faces and places!



The Comply - exciting news!

January 2022: As you may have heard at our October 2021 Community Event, a new dawn beckons for the historic Comply track. We have secured funding from [NESTRANS](#), [ScotWays](#), [Tesco Bags for Life](#), profits from the Open Garden Day held at three Lumphanan gardens, and our own contribution from the sale of t-shirts and jumpers (thanks to [Marr Area Partnership](#)). These grants and generous donations will fund initial drainage and access improvements by an experienced local contractor, engaged to begin shortly. This Comply work is a key part of the exciting ongoing projects aimed at linking walking routes from Torphins through Lumphanan to Aboyne and Tarland. Volunteer input will be welcomed too so watch this space!



Over the last few weeks there has been some initial clearance work undertaken.

Stories from Lumphanan - growing up on Oldtown Croft



January 2022:
On the [People and Places](#) page you'll find our latest article. Read about a lost way of life with this account of the Paterson family who lived at Oldtown Croft on a windswept hill by Lumphanan. Full of memories and stories of good times and hard times, and great photos, from Brian and Kenny Paterson. This is the first part of a two-part article covering the years 1957-1965.

2021

Stories from Lumphanan - Betty Moir and the Comply



November 2021: Read the story of Lumphanan- born Betty Moir on our [People and Places webpage](#). Find out why this local lady, who sadly recently passed away, had a special place in her heart for the Comply - the path which runs eastwards from Milton of Auchenhove to Roadside, just south of the old school.

Betty's daughter, Barbara, has very generously given a donation to Lumphanan Paths Group in her memory.

This comes just as the Paths Group announced plans to clear the track and make it good for use again. We may all wonder on the many tales this old track has hidden in its past as we wander along the Comply again!

Community Event - October 2021

We've put together a summary of our community meeting held on 30 October 2021, funded by Asda Foundations' [Bringing Communities Back Together](#) Grant. Achievements of the past year and plans for the future were discussed, old friends caught up and some new faces joined in, of all ages. You can read more detail [here](#).



Funding success and new project teaser!

October 21: We are very excited to be embarking on a new challenge... a path with an interesting history to uncover! Did you know that Lumphanan has a Heritage Path? [ScotWays](#) describe Heritage Paths as 'old routes that have been used for a specific purpose'.

We have secured funding from [NESTRANS](#), [ScotWays](#), [Tesco Bags for Life](#), profits from the Open Garden Day held at three Lumphanan gardens, and our own contribution from the sale of t-shirts and jumpers (thanks to Marr Area Partnership). But we're going to keep you guessing for a little while longer. See if you can identify the path from the clues on our [Projects](#) page!

Come along to our [Community Event](#) on Saturday 30th October to find out more!

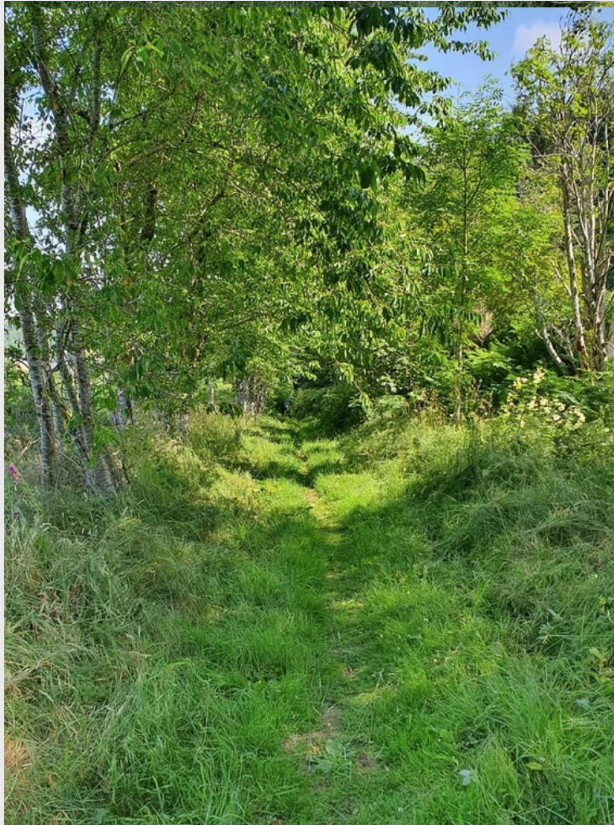


Hardy volunteers brave the heat on Cairnbeathie track!

July 2021: The path is now clear of over grown vegetation thanks to hardworking volunteers doing their bit for our community of walkers in the glorious but hot weather at the recent work party.



Ladies who strim, sickle and scythe rather than lunch!



Newly cleared path with volunteer Mike Duff. He's there, somewhere, strimming deep in the greenery!

Photos:
Fiona Grant

Eyes down! The history of Lumphanan beneath our feet - on the new [People and Places](#) history page

July 2021: Journey further into Lumphanan's history with the second in our [new series of articles](#) shining a light on the people, places and events that have shaped Lumphanan. June Armstrong writes about archaeological finds from field walking which reveal the importance of flint through the ages and more. Explore [here](#) to find out!



The beautiful and varied colours of flint.

Photo credit:
Roslyn Hay

Lumphanan Paths Group benefits from [Scotland's Garden Scheme](#)

July 2021: Thanks go to Ann & Scott Raeburn for opening their beautiful garden in Lumphanan, described as a 'Bleak place transformed over 40 years'. £300 was raised for Lumphanan Paths Group. Thank you all visitors for supporting us!



'Yellow's on the Broom' - New [People and Places](#) history page

June 2021: Delve a little deeper into Lumphanan's history. We are thrilled to start a new [series of articles](#) shining a light on the people, places and events that have shaped Lumphanan. Living memories will be brought alive in regular articles. The first is about the Traveller and Storyteller Stanley Robertson and his strong attachment to Lumphanan and in particular the Old Road (Old Military Road or Church track). Next time you walk this route, imagine the lives that were lived in Lumphanan all those years ago.



Stanley Robertson
1940 - 2009.

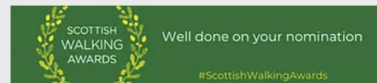
Photo courtesy of Scottish
Storytelling Centre – Tree
of Life Project

Scottish Walking Awards - Nomination

May 2021: LPG was pleased to be nominated for the Scottish Walking Awards.

Here's what they said:

'Congratulations on being nominated in the first-ever Scottish Walking Awards. The judges were impressed with your nomination. Please find attached your certificate of recognition for your work increasing walking and wheeling opportunities for more people to improve their health and to travel sustainably. Your activities are helping to make Scotland a walking friendly country. This means everyone chooses to walk more, every day and everyone has access to welcoming and safe environments for walking and wheeling.'



Thanks to those who supported and nominated us!

AGM - New members!

May 2021: At our recent AGM we were pleased to welcome three new members to our Committee. Our new committee line up can be found on the [About us - Committee](#) page. If you are interested in joining the committee or the group as a member, do get in touch lumphananpaths@gmail.com

Signs project - completed!

May 2021: Our [signs project](#) is now complete! With the last three signs installed on the pole on the Kincardine O' Neil side. Thanks to all those who contributed to this project, and for all the fabulous feedback we are getting from folk using the paths. Don't forget to pick up your leaflet to help find your way! You can find it [here](#) and in local shops and venues. This project was funded by ScotWays and Paths for All.



Bench project - completed!

May 2021: Our [bench project](#) is now complete! With the last bench in place on Lovers' Lane for all to enjoy. Thanks to local resident Craig Lindsay of Core Specialist Services, Aberdeen for a donation on behalf of his company towards this bench refurbishment. Thanks also to LSM Services Deeside Ltd for all their hard work and others who contributed to the project. The overall project for bench refurbishments was funded by a grant from Marr Area Committee.



Work party vegetation clearance - The Comply

April 2021: Thanks to volunteers and committee members for turning out on a cold day to clear The Comply of broom and sitka branches at the east end of the track. This has opened it up to look more welcoming to walkers! Broom was also cleared at the bottom of the hill down to the burn. The Comply is an old route which was used daily by children from the area to the west to reach school on the main road before the schoolhouse closed in the 1960s. You can read more about it [here](#).



Lumphanan Walks now on line!

April 2021: You can now view our walks online on OS Routes. See the links to online maps on our [Walks around Lumphanan](#) page. Mapping available includes Ordnance Survey, and you can enjoy a fly-through (subscription may be required)!

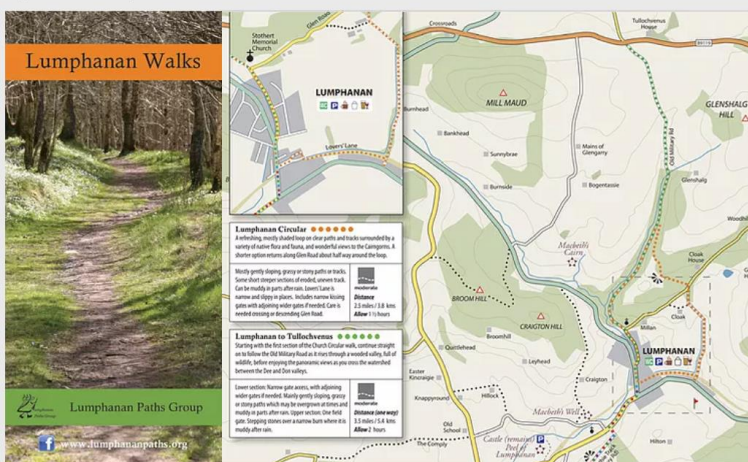


Lumphanan Walks leaflet - now available in shops!

March 2021: The leaflet is now available at the shop in Lumphanan, the shop in Kincardine O'Neil, Strachans in Aboyne, Deeside Activity Park and in Tarland. You'll find it in local cafes/eateries and other venues too once they re-open.

Lumphanan Walks leaflet consultation

January 2021: A new leaflet is being produced, showcasing some of the most well-used local walks and encouraging responsible access. There's lots of information on the local history, landscapes and wildlife you can enjoy on our walks. We are looking for comments or queries by 30 January 2021. For details see our [leaflet consultation page](#). This project is funded by ScotWays and Paths for All.



2020

Signs and way marking phase 1 - installation starts!

December 2020: New waymarking posts are being installed this week on routes between Lumphanan and Kincardine O Neil. Thanks to Gerd (and family!) for the hard work, and photos!

This work is funded by ScotWays and Paths for All.



Signs and way marking phase 2 – Lumphanan village

December 2020: Following some cost savings on our signs and way-marking proposals, we now have funds for a second phase of signage around Lumphanan. Please click on the poster below for more information and let us have any comments by 7 December 2020 by email to: lumphananpaths@gmail.com This work is funded by ScotWays and Paths for All.

Lumphanan Paths Group
Way marking proposals – Phase 2 – Lumphanan village
30th November 2020

This poster shows a second phase of proposals by Lumphanan Paths Group for signs and way marking. Thanks to a grant from ScotWays and Paths for All, Lumphanan village is the starting point for all of our works. The proposed signs aim to draw attention to all routes available from the village centre.

1. Replacement metal post and three double sided Finger Blades. Subject to Aberdeenshire Council consent. Sign wording:
 - Path - Old Military Road / Tullochness / 2 miles;
 - Path - all routes to Kincardine O'Neil / 3 1/2 miles;
 - Path / Lovell's Lane / 150 metres.
2. Single sided finger blade on existing lamp post (subject to Aberdeenshire Council consent). Sign wording:
 - Path / Lovell's Lane / 150 metres.
3. Waymarking arrow disc on fence (owner's consent given).
4. Finger blade on lamp post in garden next to dog bin (landowner consent given). Sign wording:
 - Path / Lumphanan via Lovell's Lane / 150 metres;
 - Right of Way / 150 metres / 1/2 mile.
5. Waymarking arrow disc on bridge.
6. Waymarking arrow disc on existing timber stabling.
7. One metre high timber post (with way marking disc, Landowner's consent given).
8. Arrow disc on existing gate post.

Please send any comments to lumphananpaths@gmail.com by 7th December 2020



Path improvements

November 2020: The Cairnbeathie track - part of the Old Military Road route to Kincardine O'Neil - is benefitting from further clearance work, on our socially -distanced work party with volunteers on 29 November.

We regularly hold working party days, subject to COVID 19 restrictions. Visit our [get involved](#) page to find out how you can help us deliver projects, and to let us know of any work needed on our paths.



Cairnbeathie track (Old Military Road) - fencing

November 2020: One of our projects, funded by the King George V Wind turbine community fund, Lumphanan Community Recreation Association and Marr Area Small Grants - is progressing well. Fencing work to prevent livestock from straying onto the path has now been carried out. Safer for people and beasts

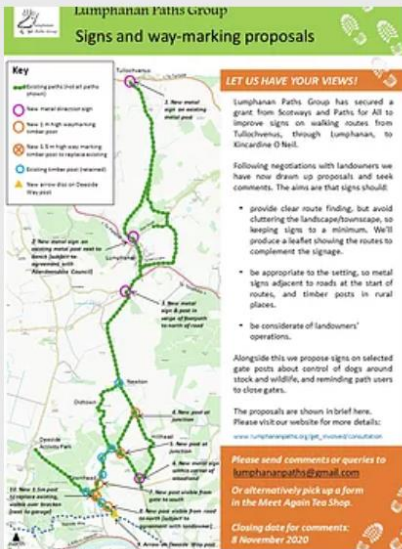


Signs & waymarking consultation - now closed

November 2020: Our consultation is now closed. Thanks to all those who contributed! We have also had some feedback on other routes requiring signs, so do get in touch if you have further suggestions: lumphananpaths@gmail.com

Signs & waymarking improvements - let us have your views!

October 2020: Following negotiations with landowners we have now drawn up proposals and seek comments on proposed improvements: see our [consultation page here](#). This work is funded by ScotWays and Paths for All.



Benches update and donations

October 2020: The latest bench is now at the foot of the Church track on Glen Road. The restoration costs of this bench have been kindly donated to the Lumphanan community by our local blacksmith, Les Morgan of LSM Services Deeside Ltd and his wife, Isla. Thank you!

[Find out more on our Facebook page](#)

We are grateful to local resident Craig Lindsay of Core Specialist Services, Aberdeen, for making a donation on behalf of his company towards the refurbishment of the Lover's Lane bench. Thank you Craig!

Although not part of our project, there is also a new commemorative horseshoe bench at the Lumphanan Circular viewpoint made by Gordon Ritchie.



Progress on benches project

September 2020: Good news for those who enjoy some relaxation on their walk!
Two benches are already back after refurbishment. The Paths Group obtained funding for this project from Marr Area Committee.

[Find out more on our Facebook page](#)



Funding approved!

August 2020: We are pleased to announce funds have been granted from ScotWays and Paths for All for new signs on various routes around Lumphanan. We have also secured funds from King George V fund for fencing along the Cairnbeathie track and Marr Area Small Grant Scheme for bench refurbishments. Find out more about these and other projects on our projects page.

Path improvements

August 2020: The Cairnbeathie track is now clear of broom and grass, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and committee members in February and August 2020. Thank you all!

We regularly hold working party days. Visit our [get involved](#) page to find out how you can help us deliver projects, and to let us know of any work needed on our paths.

Responsible access

Summer 2020: We've seen many of our paths busier than usual this year. Please walk responsibly and be considerate of others, including parking. Be aware of the [Scottish Outdoor](#)

Fundraising event - story telling, Lumphanan Church Hall - 9th September 2024 - 7.30pm - 9.30pm



**Tales an Sangs
fae Roonabout**
With local storytellers Jackie Ross & Grace Banks

A grand eveni o stories, sangs an guid craic!

Thursday 5th September
Lumphanan
Church Hall, Perthill Road
7:30pm - 9:30pm
Entry - £5.00 (incl. tea & biscuits)
tickets on the door

Our next fundraising evening - the last one in May was such a success!

Tales an Sangs fae Roonabout

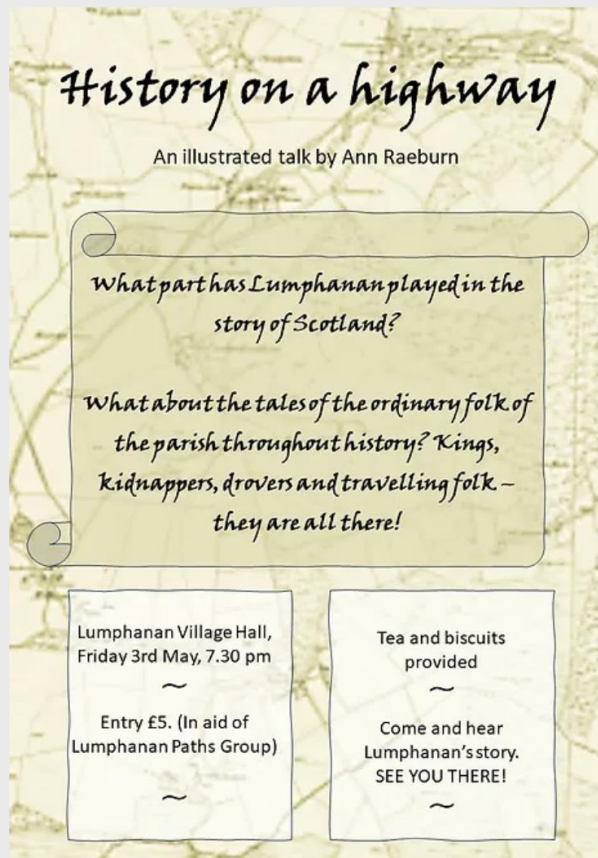
Come jyne local storytellers Jackie Ross an Grace Banks for a grand eveni o stories, sangs an guid craic includin the tales o the Witch o Findrick an Aul Creuvie. Lookin forward tae seein you!

Cash only (No card or online payments)

This event is for adults, but children are welcome

Coming soon - a date for your diary - Friday 3rd May, 7.30 pm at Lumphanan Village Hall.

Learn about Lumphanan's role in the story of Scotland at Ann Raeburn's illustrated talk 'History on a Highway'. Click on the poster below for more details!



History on a highway
An illustrated talk by Ann Raeburn

What part has Lumphanan played in the story of Scotland?

What about the tales of the ordinary folk of the parish throughout history? Kings, kidnappers, drovers and travelling folk - they are all there!

Lumphanan Village Hall,
Friday 3rd May, 7.30 pm

Entry £5. (In aid of Lumphanan Paths Group)

Tea and biscuits provided

Come and hear Lumphanan's story.
SEE YOU THERE!



Lumphanan Paths Group AGM coming up!

Join us on Wednesday 17th
April, 7.30pm at the
Lumphanan Church Hall. Hear
about the Group's
achievements and future aims.
Tea and coffee available.

2023



Volunteer day Thursday 20th July 2023

A date for your diary!
Work party meets on Thursday
20th July.

Looking forward to seeing you
at 2.00pm at the foot of the
Church track!

For more information see our
[facebook page](#) or contact us
at lumphananpaths@gmail.com



AGM - 12th April 2023 Lumphanan Church Hall

The Group will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 12th April at 7.30 pm at Lumphanan Church Hall. All are welcome!



2022



Saturday 3rd December 2022: The Mortlich March!

Join us for a walk towards Aboyne from Mortlich Cottage. Bring a flask and mince pies as we shall be meeting up with Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group at a halfway point for a social get together. The path is a little overgrown with bracken so bring a stick to help flatten it. Please email lumphananpaths@gmail.com by Wednesday 30/11 if you plan to join us.

Where to meet

Meet at Lumphanan Square at 9.00am as we will be doubling up in transport to the start point at Mortlich Cottage.

About the walk

This is quite a steady climb but there will be parking for a few 4x4 cars at Mortlich Cottage, just beyond Tillybreen which will cut out the long walk up the track. There is also parking on the wide verge of the public road for those game to walk the track up.



Work party - The Comply - 11th June 2022

Volunteers please help!

We are planning our next work party 11 June The Comply 10am-12noon. We'll be tackling nettles and soft, new vegetation so please bring gloves!

Please let us know by email to: lumphananpaths@gmail.com or message us that you are coming. Look forward to seeing you all there!

For up to date information see our [Facebook](#) page.

AGM 18th May

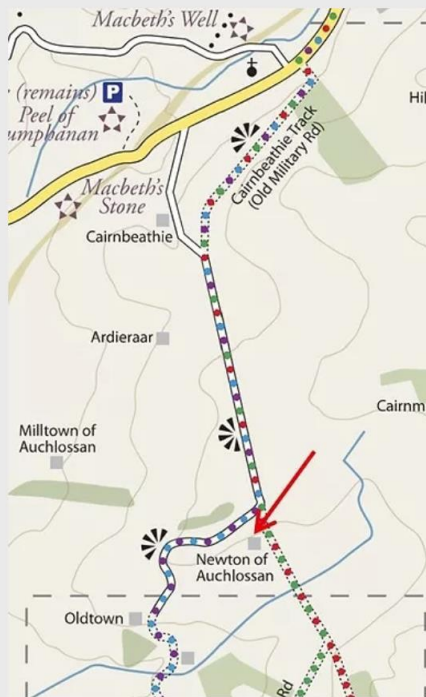
Lumphanan Paths Group AGM

Wednesday 18 May

7:30pm

Church Hall
(Perkhill Road)

All Welcome!



Work party - 7th May

Volunteers please help!
Work party organised for Saturday
7th May, 10.00-12.00am.
This charming track at Oldtown
needs to be cleared of broom.
Please car share if possible and
park at Sheila Allan, Newton of
Auchlossan, as shown on map.
Bring gloves, a drink and snack.
The Paths Group will provide tools.
Please let us know by email to:
lumphananpaths@gmail.com
or message us that you are coming.
Look forward to seeing you all
there! For up to date information
see our [Facebook](#) page.