



# NEWSLETTER

## Autumn 2025



*It has been a busy year and we would like to thank everyone for their help over this time which is very much appreciated. As we move away from the summer months into autumn we would like to thank all those who support us including volunteers, funders and those accessing or benefitting from the community services and projects we deliver. We could not manage to continue without your support - Thank You.*

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Go Golspie Development Trust is a community-led organisation and we continue to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community. We remain busy as we balance developing existing projects with taking on new activities.

Please be aware when visiting the Go Golspie office (usually open 9am-2pm Monday-Friday) there may be activities taking place in the building.

# FOUNTAIN ROAD HALL

Many events and activities have taken place during the year in Fountain Road Hall (FRH). These range from birthday parties to consultation events, vaccine clinics to classes for Pilates and several choirs.

One that stands out was the V. E Day 80th celebration on the 10th May which was very well attended and everyone had an enjoyable time. All volunteers, other groups, musicians, and our driver for the Go Golspie bus were thanked.

More recently East Sutherland Arts Society held their annual art display in Fountain Road Hall which was successful with a lot of people coming through the door to view the pictures and prints. The markets have been quieter in part due to other local community markets falling on the same day.

With support from the Davy Duff Tape Service, their former space has been upgraded to office use and the adjoining storage area refurbished. Thank you to the DDTS for your help with this. These two spaces are now available for rent either by the hour, the day or on a long-term basis. Please contact us if you are interested. The entrance hall



area has been refurbished with new automatic sliding doors which help keep the heat in.

As we look to build bookings in the Hall and develop activities we have some events planned for the coming months and are open to suggestions



about potential performers. If there is an activity or class that does not already happen locally and which you would like to take part in do please let us know details and we will see what we can do to bring it to Golspie.

## COMMUNITY MARKETS

The Christmas 2025 market takes place at Fountain Road Hall 11am-3pm on Saturday 1st November 2025. In 2026 we are considering changing the day to avoid clashes with other markets. Let us know your thoughts - perhaps a

weekday suits better than a Saturday and what would you like to see at your market? Pop into our office in the YMCA Building 9am-2pm Mon-Fri and let us know, phone 01408 634033 or email frh@gogolspie.co.uk.

*Scan to see details of our community markets'*





## Golspie Community Food Larder

Mondays 11am - 1pm  
Wednesdays 2 - 4pm

from Fountain Road Hall  
(small hall via side entrance)

Come and help yourself to any food you would like.

Go Golspie Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation NO: SC046438

# COMMUNITY FOOD

Golspie Community Food Larder opens twice a week in Fountain Road Hall and there is also food available for those attending activities. There is a food table in the YMCA Building as well as the 24-hour non-perishables Food Pantry behind the Service Point.

If you need food for your group's activities (perhaps pizza nights or making soup) we can often help with ingredients. Community Food is for everyone, helping reduce food waste. Volunteers welcome.

# BOARD MEMBERS

At our next AGM we will be looking for a couple of new board members. We plan to hold the AGM at 7pm on Monday 27th October in Fountain Road Hall and everyone is welcome to attend. If you are interested in knowing more about what being on the board involves, please contact chair@gogolspie.co.uk, call 01408 634033 or visit our office in the YMCA Building.

# STAFF UPDATE

David (Fountain Road Hall) is now working on Mondays and Wednesdays and Peter (Transport) is working Tuesday - Friday mornings. Subject to securing funding we hope to recruit a part-time Development Officer for Fountain Road Hall in due course - watch this space!

# YMCA BUILDING

Setting up Film Screenings was the top community request in the survey completed before the building refurbishment was carried out. So it was exciting to show a pilot Children's Film during Golspie Gala week which went well with positive feedback from everyone.

There are plans to hold film screenings regularly through the winter as a Warm Space activity along with developing Knitting & Crochet Group activities and the weekly coffee group. All are welcome to attend.

To show films regularly we would welcome more volunteers particularly to assist with the physical setting up and taking down of equipment when a film is being shown.

It would be great to involve some youth members on the film screening group. To help gather peoples film choices, we recently created new polls available on our Facebook page and in paper form from the office. It would be helpful to have youth members assist with this. We are also looking to show local footage/films.

The new wheelchair accessible door into the Large Hall (entrance via East Millicent Avenue) has been completed and is in use. An induction loop system has been installed in the Large Hall and sensor activated lights at the new entrance.



**GO GOLSPIE DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

## MONTHLY FILM SCREENINGS

**DO YOU LOVE FILMS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH THEM IN THE YMCA BUILDING. WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT A POOL OF VOLUNTEERS THAT WE COULD CALL UPON TO ASSIST WHEN AVAILABLE TO HELP AT FILM SCREENINGS.**

**WE HAVE VARIOUS ROLES - FROM PUTTING CHAIRS OUT, SETTING UP THE SCREEN, TO WELCOMING PEOPLE AND SELLING TICKETS.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE CONTACT US ON -**

**YMCA@GOGOLSPIE.CO.UK**

**01408 634033**

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# TOURISM

Working together with UHI funding, support and input, we have made progress updating the website, re-established the Instagram account and developed a leaflet and map to support tourism in the village. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter.

The initial phase of this project concluded at the end of July, but now we have funding to proceed to the next stage. A significant amount of work remains and we are grateful to the help from UHI to take this forwards.



# VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to all our Volunteers without whom we could not deliver our activities and services.

We have several new volunteer drivers for both car and bus which is an immense help. The more drivers we have the more people we can support. New volunteer Heather Vonck completed her Midas Minibus driver training this week and will be driving the Golspie Minibus. She also hopes to be driving our community medical car in the near future. Very well done Heather and welcome aboard.

Our volunteer Doreen Gladman received recognition and an award for her continued support for Go Golspie activities including lunch club, coffee mornings, markets and shopping trips.



As a couple of board members step down at our next AGM if you are keen to get more involved in the work we do, please get in touch.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers for us in any capacity. We appreciate your contribution and input.



# COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

**MINIBUS** - Our new minibus arrived on Monday 30th June and was fully checked to ensure it complies with all relevant requirements. Its first hire was Saturday 12th July to The Sutherland Caledonian Pipe Band to The Muir of Ord Gala. Our previous minibus was then sold privately.

**Recent use:** From 30th June until 15th September, the minibus completed 38 journeys covering almost 2600 miles with 33 journeys in the new minibus. This included 26 hires, 5 Midas training sessions and the rest maintenance checks. During Golspie Gala Week the minibus completed shuttle runs conveying people between the village and the Banger Derby. 2 shopping trips to Tain were completed, organised and run by local volunteers taking 20 local residents shopping for the day, which was a great success. The bus is available to be booked by individuals and groups locally either with a volunteer driver or with groups own drivers. We ask all drivers to undertake MIDAS minibus driver training first.

**CAR** - We were successful in securing funding for a replacement electric community car and took possession of a new electric Skoda Elroq on Monday 18th August. The Vauxhall Corsa which we had for well over 4½ years has now been sold. Let us know if you have a medical appointment coming up and we will do our best to find a volunteer driver to take you.

**Recent use:** From 30th June to 15th September 2025, the electric car completed 37 journeys covering almost 2700 miles. 10 trips to the



National Treatment Centre, Inverness, 13 to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, 4 to the dentist in Tain, 1 trip to Caithness General Hospital, 8 for local appointments and 1 for maintenance.

**VOLUNTEER MINIBUS AND CAR DRIVERS** - We can only run the community transport service with the help of volunteer drivers. If you would like to help us please get in touch.

**MIDAS MINIBUS DRIVER TRAINING** - 35 drivers have completed new format Midas training through Go Golspie with two more currently going through training. Two new volunteers will be driving the minibus and the car for us. Enquiries are still being received about Midas training from other areas. An accredited course completed in three parts, the first is online with an exam, the second enhanced face to face training at a local level and the final part a one-to-one driving assessment which should last approx. 45 minutes.

**LUNCH CLUB** - The fortnightly lunch club remains very popular at the Stags Head Hotel. We currently have 26 names on the attendance list. On average, 10 of those attending require transport using the Go Golspie minibus. If you are of pension age and would like to attend, please let us know.

**Anyone interested in booking our transport, taking part in activities, with ideas for different activities we could use it for, wanting to become a volunteer driver for us or to take part in Midas Minibus Driving training, should get in touch on 01408 634033 or email [transport@gogolspie.co.uk](mailto:transport@gogolspie.co.uk).**

## VILLAGE EVENTS



The new 'Village Events' page on our website is for activities and events taking place locally.

Let us know if you would like yours to be included.

## FLOOD DEFENCE

Over the last 12 months we liaised with the new Flood Group providing over £4,500 to help them get set up and provided village wide flood mitigation measures using local businesses where possible. This included Flood Resilience items and funding so residents could purchase water butts locally. We did this on behalf of the group and ordered items directly or from local businesses. A few more water butts and some resilience items will complete this work.



## PLAYPARKS

Ross Street Playpark now has the new equipment installed with a focus on providing more wheelchair accessible equipment. Existing equipment including the zip wire has been refurbished and the new paths, lighting and goal posts are also in place.

## COMMUNITY RADIO

This has seen us working with Brora Development Trust who are leading the project and with Helmsdale Development Trust to help get the project off the ground. A studio is now set up in the Hub in Brora and meetings with potential presenters organised. **Radio Sutherland** should launch before the end of the year and volunteers and presenters are welcome.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

The Go Golspie Guided Walks and Led Cycle Rides organised by Amanda Wagstaffe at Pedal Pursuits started in June 2025 and have been well attended with the Walk Specials particularly popular. Trips to Cromarty, Rosehall, Evanton and Migdale Loch have taken place so far. Amanda has done MIDAS training so we don't need a volunteer for the minibus for the Walk Specials. These will continue through October and beyond if funding can be secured.



## CHARGES: FOUNTAIN ROAD HALL AND YMCA BUILDING

With increasing costs, there will be a small rise in charges for non-voluntary organisations. From 1st December, hire costs will be:

### INDIVIDUALS/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS:

Large Hall: £15 per hour  
 Small Hall: £10 per hour  
 Hot Desk Space: £3 per hour/£20 per day  
 Kitchen: £10 (up to 4 hours use)

Full Day (8 hours) for Whole Building: £150  
 Half Day (4 hours) for Whole Building: £75  
 Children's Birthday Parties: £35 for up to 3 hours  
 Youth Groups: £6 per hour per space

### NON-VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS:

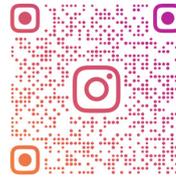
Large Hall: £17 per hour  
 Small Hall: £11 per hour  
 Hot Desk Space: £4 per hour/£25 per day  
 Kitchen: £10 (up to 4 hours use)

Full Day (8 hours) for Whole Building: £220  
 Half Day (4 hours) for Whole Building: £110  
 Funerals: £220  
 Weddings: Please enquire



## WEBSITE

We are working to update and upgrade our website - do take a look.



## INSTAGRAM

Our Instagram page can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/gogolspie>



## FACEBOOK

The number of followers stands at 725 and continues to increase.



### HAVE A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT BUT ARE WITHOUT TRANSPORT?

If you need to get to a medical appointment and have no access to your own transport and you are a resident of Golspie or registered with Golspie Medical Practice then you are eligible for the transport service offered by

Go Golspie Development Trust.

Call: 01408 634033 or call into the Go Golspie Development Trust office in the YMCA Building, East Millicent Avenue.



Go Golspie Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: SC046438



## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

Do you drive?

Do you have any spare time?

Volunteers are needed to help continue the excellent community transport service provided by Go Golspie Development Trust.

Full training will be provided for the electric car and the minibus.

For further information or an informal chat please contact [transport@gogolspie.co.uk](mailto:transport@gogolspie.co.uk), phone 01408 634033 or pop into the Go Golspie Development Trust office at YMCA Building, East Millicent Avenue, Golspie KW10 6TL



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### MiDAS Minibus Driver Training



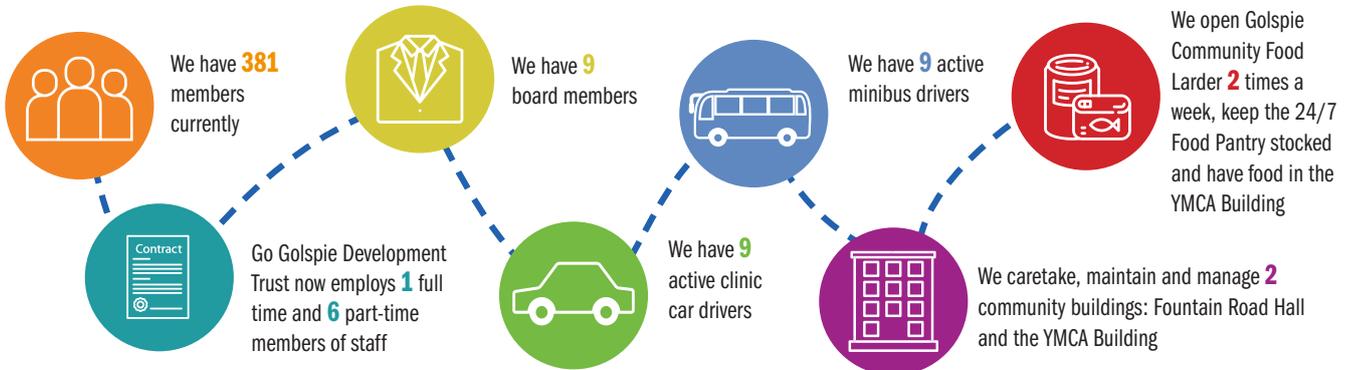
Go Golspie Development Trust has an accredited MiDAS Training assessor for minibus drivers and can also provide training for volunteers wishing to drive community minibuses.

The first part of the training and exam are completed online, followed by enhanced face to face training and a one-to-one driving assessment. A nationally recognised certificate, valid for 4 years, will be awarded on successful completion of the training.

For further information please contact Go Golspie Development Trust either by email at [transport@gogolspie.co.uk](mailto:transport@gogolspie.co.uk), by phone on 01408 634033 or call in to the office at the YMCA Building, East Millicent Avenue, Golspie KW10 6TL and have a chat.



Go Golspie Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. SC046



Go Golspie is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO - Number SC046438) Established November 2015

Business address: YMCA Building, East Millicent Avenue, Golspie KW10 6TL

Email: [info@gogolspie.co.uk](mailto:info@gogolspie.co.uk) • Website [www.gogolspie.co.uk](http://www.gogolspie.co.uk)

