



INSPIRING INNELLAN PORTFOLIO

COASTAL VILLAGE

BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND 2024



INTRODUCTION

Innellan is a Victorian village built along the scenic shores of the Firth of Clyde in the Cowal Peninsula of Argyll.

The village has a long, interesting history, an abundance of wildlife and amazing scenic beauty. Mammals such as red squirrels, seals, otters and pine martens can be seen along with dolphins and the odd Minke whale. The area has a rich variety of plant and bird life too.

We do have midges and our fair share of rain but then, nothing is perfect!

The village rises in tree “tiers” into the hills. There is a ruined castle, golf course, riding stables, tennis courts, an astro turf play area, a bowling club and a school. The Osborne Hotel and Royal Bar both serve food and attract people from outwith the village. The community owned shop and Post Office are conveniently situated on the Shore Road near the hub of this vibrant community, The Village Hall. This is the base for yoga, badminton, indoor bowling, karate, an art club and much more so there is no need for anyone to be bored here!

If all that is not enough, we also have Inspiring Innellan!

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

OVERALL IMPRESSION



There is a natural look to the village which Inspiring Innellan is keen to preserve.

Overgrown areas have been cleared and replanted with a variety of plants which are suited to the area and prevailing conditions.



Grassy areas are regularly cut by Inspiring Innellan. The railings have finally lost the old rusty look and now give the impression that you are entering a cared for village. Roadside verges cleared of weeds and litter, well maintained benches and tables and colourful planters add to the attraction of the village.



MAINTAINANCE OF PLANTED AREAS



Along the two and a half miles of Innellan's Shore Road, boats and large planters are maintained by Inspiring Innellan. There are also large areas around the village which the group has cleared and replanted. Watering in dry weather is tricky, but volunteers living near planters help. Strategically placed water butts are used and we also have a battery operated hose attached to large water containers when needed. This year we have replaced many of our original planters on the Shore Road with bigger and better ones, which are hand made locally to a high standard. Dead-heading, weeding and pruning take place as a matter of routine.

The use of pesticides and slug pellets is kept to an absolute minimum.



PLANT SELECTION

The damp, west coast climate and salt spray affects plant choice, as does an awareness of the needs of wildlife, so plants are chosen with these factors in mind.

We are keen to keep the natural look of the area and avoid the “municipal park” look. The use of perennials and bulbs is cost effective, but bedding is used to add colour. We have the free use of a wonderful conservatory where we can bring on many of our plants from seed, cuttings and plugs. This is time consuming but cost effective and gives the opportunity to have a wide choice of material. Vegetables are grown in the raised beds at the conservatory.



PLANT QUALITY

We source our plants from reputable suppliers such as The Tree Shop at Ardkinglas, Benmore Gardens, Anglia Bulbs, Brookside Nursery, J. Parkers Bulbs and Scotia Seeds.

We dead head, water and feed plants regularly to ensure plants are healthy.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

LOCAL IDENTITY AND PRIDE OF PLACE



A variety of interpretation boards about local and natural history are on display around the village. We work with a local Blue Guide Leader when she leads heritage walks around the village. New signs at Cluniter Picnic Area encourage visitors to come further into Innellan to find what is on offer. We have created many attractive areas along the Shore Road where people like to sit and admire the views or enjoy the tranquillity which is so important to their health and well being.

Benches and picnic tables are well maintained, grass is regularly cut, planters add colour and notice boards give relevant information. A roadside cycle repair station is maintained, litter is regularly picked up on streets and beaches by dog walkers and extra litter bins have been put in place and regularly emptied. After the devastating storms of earlier this year, much debris which was washed up on our shore was collected and removed with help from the Council. Apart from that, Innellan's beaches buck the trend and are remarkably litter free. The mammoth task of painting the entire length of railings along the Shore Road has been completed this year.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We are well aware of the wide variety of habitats for wildlife in Innellan and our efforts to improve the appearance of the village are sympathetic to their needs. We have bird boxes (including one for owls), a squirrel hide, feeders, a bat box and insect friendly areas. The children's maze is made of dead wood and doubles as a refuge for small mammals and insects. An extended pollinating area is being created at the Yellow Chipped Road where there are also piles of logs and branches left to decay in situ for the benefit of insects.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



We have numerous composters made of recycled pallets and make good use of the end product. Leaves are collected for leaf mould. Seaweed is collected and added to the compost bins along with horse manure when available. Water butts help with watering in awkward spots.

We wash and reuse seed trays and plant pots and reuse and recycle many other items.

Two very old wooden milk churns were turned into lovely planters this year!

There are posters about dog poo and litter, and we also put out and empty several litter bins in addition to the ones placed by the Council.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

YEAR ROUND ACTIVITY AND FUTURE COMMITMENT

Inspiring Innellan's strength lies in its community, which, quite simply, is second to none. From the very beginning we have enjoyed tremendous support which comes in many forms.

Donations come to us in the form of money, time, food, raffle prizes and support for the many events we run. We plan to have at least one community event per month and we have never been disappointed in the response we have had. Many of our events are fundraisers which have enabled us to achieve financial independence. We have put the FUN into FUNdraising, and find that the social nature of most of our events does wonders for the health and well being of participants.



But we are not mercenary! We help other groups when possible, and this year have raised money for the Lady Haig Poppy Appeal, Cowal Elderly Befrienders, Hilltop in Kenya, the local Hospice (in conjunction with the Women's Group) and have sponsored the local Nursery by paying for new outdoor clothing for the children. We've also given bulbs to the Nursery and have planted seeds with them as part of their Forest Schools activities. The Lido Community Shop/Post Office has been helped with plants in a two way co-operative effort, and the Royal Bar has had its window boxes planted up in the same manner.





Our regular Sunday work parties are an essential part of our activities. Our committed group works all year round in all weathers on a wide variety of tasks, and enjoys the camaraderie of lunch at the end of each morning's efforts. We have a great team of regulars, but also a wider group of people whose skills and efforts we can count on when necessary e.g. use of diggers, trailers, baking, knotweed control and so on. Knowing that we have access to skills, equipment and commitment gives us confidence to continue making improvements to the village.

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



Our main form of communication is through our Facebook page which now has over 1200 followers worldwide! The feedback from our postings helps us to learn if what we are doing is appreciated. We also place posters about events on our own dedicated notice boards and in the Lido/Post Office and the Royal Bar. The local newspaper is supportive and prints articles about our activities, but we also use that other age old and trusted method of communication - we talk to people!

SUPPORT AND FUNDING

Because of generous donations in money and kind, we have been able to achieve so much, and, hopefully will continue to do so. We are financially secure enough to be able to run our van (donated), pay costs such as insurance for the van and work parties, buy plants, compost and other essentials. For the last few years, the Bruan Lights at Christmas have donated substantial amounts in return for just a little help. The same people have also greatly helped with setting up the Christmas Light Display in the centre of the village so Innellan is the envy of every town and village in Cowal during the festive period! The Village Hall has donated money generously too this year, and in return, we maintain the garden behind the Hall. The Community Council has given us money through a Community Hydro Scheme and with it we replaced one of our large picnic benches which had seen better days. Individuals from time to time give donations, as does a local Art Studio which operates in the village. It is thanks to the interest and generosity of our local residents that Innellan is what it is - The Golden Village of Argyll!

FUTURE PLANS

We aim to continue with our strategy of fundraising so that we are;-

- a) largely self-sufficient
- b) interacting with our community
- c) consolidating areas that we have already been working at

In addition, we intend improving Eleanor Lane which we had previously cleared, but had to abandon when it was closed off for several years owing to a dangerous wall.

We also intend working closely with the Lido Community Shop to develop a Community Garden at our Conservatory area. The Lido has recently given us a substantial amount of money which will enable us to put plans into action for the benefit of our community.



INSPIRING INNELLAN

JOIN US IN THE ROYAL BAR
7th February - 7pm for 7.30pm



QUIZ NIGHT

CONTACT ROYAL BAR TO BOOK YOUR TABLE
TEAMS OF 4-6 MAXIMUM - £3 PER HEAD / RAFFLE

Why not book your table for earlier and enjoy a nice meal before quiz starts.

INSPIRING INNELLAN



Coffee Morning

Innellan Village Hall
Saturday 10th February 2024
11am - 1pm
Tea/Coffee/Home Made Soup/
Stalls/Tombola
Entry £3 - Soup £1 Extra

All proceeds will be used to help us continue with work required around our "Gold Award Winning Village" Thank you all for your support.

INSPIRING INNELLAN

WE ARE HOSTING A SOCIAL AFTERNOON FOR THE COWAL ELDERLY BEFRIENDERS ON WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY AT 2pm INNELLAN VILLAGE HALL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, COME ALONG AND ENJOY SOME LIVE MUSIC REFRESHMENTS BINGO

Cowal Befrienders

INSPIRING INNELLAN



COFFEE MORNING

Innellan Village Hall
Saturday 2nd March 2024 - 11am - 1pm

Tea/Coffee/Home Made Soup/
Stalls/Tombola

Entry - £3 / Soup - £1 Extra

Snowdrops In The Green + English Bluebells In The Green
25 for £10 / 50 for £18

(Snowdrops & Bluebells planted in the green have the best chance of success)

Some Potted Plants Will Also Be Available

So come along and get some great bargains for your garden.

INSPIRING INNELLAN



Following a very popular coffee morning today, we still have some of the plants listed below, if anyone could not make the sale & would like some, please get in touch.

ENGLISH BLUEBELLS & SNOWDROPS

£10 FOR 25 OR £18 FOR 50

ALL IN THE GREEN READY FOR PLANTING

MINIATURE DAFFODILS IN POTS £1

PLEASE MESSAGE INSPIRING INNELLAN ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO ARRANGE COLLECTION OR LOCAL DELIVERY

INSPIRING INNELLAN



JUMBLE SALE

Innellan Village Hall
Saturday 6th April 2024
1pm - 3pm
Entry Fee - £1

Great bargains for all!
To donate items, please contact Inspiring Innellan on our Facebook page. Alternatively, phone 01369 830793

We are unable to accept bulky items. Please do not donate items which are broken or dirty! Donations being accepted now!

INSPIRING INNELLAN



Take Top Sale

Innellan Village Hall
Saturday May 11th
2pm - 4pm

Sellers: 6ft Table £10 / 3ft Table £5

To Book Your Table
Please Message Inspiring Innellan Facebook Page or Tel:01369 830793

Entry : 50p
Refreshments Available

Inspiring Innellan



QUIZ NIGHT

This starts a long weekend of celebrations for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

The Royal Bar Innellan
5th June 2024
7pm for 7.30pm
Teams of 4/6 maximum / £3 per person Raffle

Please contact The Royal Bar to book your table - 01369 830050

INSPIRING INNELLAN



The 80th Anniversary Of The D-Day Landings.
Thursday 6th June 2024

We will be lighting a Beacon at 9.15pm at Cluniter Picnic Area.
Also a bonfire on the beach to keep you warm & toast marshmallows. Long skewers & marshmallows will be available at refreshment tent.
Join us from 8pm.

Inspiring Innellan



D-DAY TALK - FRIDAY 7th JUNE - 7pm
INNELLAN VILLAGE HALL

On June 6, 1944 the Allied Forces of the UK and the USA landed in Normandy to launch an attack on Nazi controlled mainland Europe. The planning had been thorough, detailed and clever. It was also an incredibly well kept secret until the moment the invasion began. What had lead up to this? How was it planned? What happened after the soldiers landed in France?

Marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, Margaret Hubbard will give a talk on the momentous plan which has come to be known simply by its codename, D-Day.

Entry Price - £5
Proceeds to Innellan Village Hall

Inspiring Innellan

D-Day 80th Anniversary Ceilidh



Saturday 8th June 8.30pm - 12pm

Dancing To Canned Haggis Ceilidh Band
8.30pm - 12pm - Tickets £12
Raffle / B.T.O.B / Glasses / Snacks

Tickets Available From Inspiring Innellan.
Please Contact Our Facebook Page To Reserve & Arrange Collection.
Doors open 7.30pm

Inspiring Innellan



80th Anniversary Walk 7th June 2pm
Starting At The Innellan Village Hall

On the Innellan War Memorial are the names of the local men who did not come back from World War II. They were killed during the whole six years of conflict. There were also many who did come back.

Following on from her talk, on June 9th Margaret will lead a walk round the village stopping at the houses of a number of these men to tell their stories.

This walk will begin outside the Village Hall at 2pm and will last about 2 hours when it will conclude inside the Village Hall for refreshments.

It should be noted that this walk will involve walking up on to the High Road.

Price £5 - Proceeds to the Village Hall

INSPIRING INNELLAN



BEETLE DRIVE

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Innellan Village Hall on Sat 28th Sept.
7pm - 10pm

Join us for a bit of fun that all the family can enjoy.
We will be having a Beetle Drive and Bingo.

Entry: - Adults £2 Children £1

Refreshments Available At Interval

INSPIRING INNELLAN



QUIZ NIGHT

JOIN US IN THE ROYAL BAR INNELLAN FOR ANOTHER FUN QUIZ NIGHT

16TH OCTOBER 2024
7PM FOR 7.30PM START

TEAMS OF 4/6 MAXIMUM - £3 PER HEAD RAFFLE

Please contact the Royal Bar to book your table on 01369 830050

Why not make a night of it and book for a lovely meal prior to the quiz beginning.

INSPIRING INNELLAN



COFFEE MORNING

Innellan Village Hall

Saturday 12th October 2024
11am - 1pm

Tea/Coffee/Home Made Soup/Stalls
Entry £3 - Soup £1 Extra

Proceeds will go towards the never ending renewal & expanding of Christmas Lights for the Village. Thank you for your support.

INSPIRING INNELLAN



Table Top Sale

Innellan Village Hall
Saturday 9th November
2pm - 4pm

Sellers: 6ft Table £10 / 3ft Table £5

To Book Your Table
Please Message Inspiring Innellan Facebook Page or Tel:01369 830793

Entry : 50p
Refreshments Available



We will continue to organise our fundraisers next year. These are always well supported by the community and beyond. It is great to see so many people getting together to support a common cause, and enjoying themselves while they do it!

<https://youtu.be/xXBbn7vHBQs>

Above is the link for last years video presentation. As it was our 5th anniversary, it shows where we started, and how far we have come. A lot of the places featured will be included in the judges tour this year.

In the event that the link does not function, please search for Inspiring Innellan on YouTube.