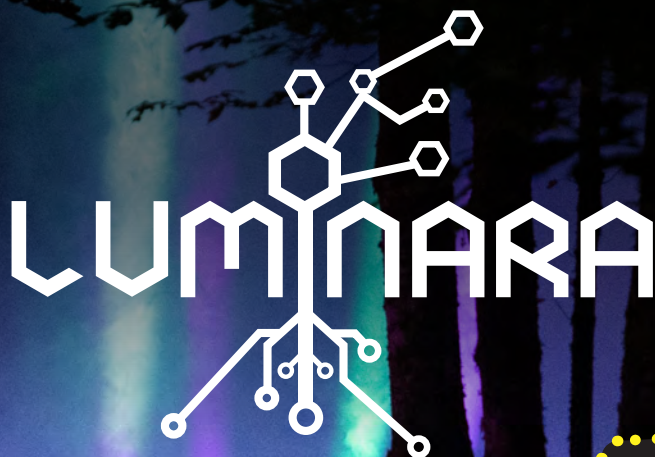


Enchanted Forest Community Newsletter

Issue: September 2025



85,000

**VISITORS TO
THE SHOW
EACH YEAR!**

 **THE
ENCHANTED
FOREST
TRUST**

**SHOW DATES
2 OCT – 2 NOV**

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Enchanted Forest Community Trust newsletter. With less than a month until The Enchanted Forest's much-anticipated opening on 2 October, we're excited to share this year's spectacular show, *Luminara*, a dazzling journey of colour, light, music and, of course, the natural beauty of Faskally Wood.

This newsletter brings you key updates ahead of the event and a glimpse into the work we've been doing to support Pitlochry and the wider Highland Perthshire community. The Enchanted Forest is more than a show, it's a vital boost for local charities and businesses and a shared celebration of this region.

Our team has been working hard, combining creativity and innovation, to deliver an experience that continues to exceed expectations, while also listening to and addressing community concerns about any disruption the show may cause. Your warm welcome to visitors is deeply appreciated.

This year marks ten years of the Enchanted Forest Community Fund, through which we've reinvested £522,000 of proceeds from the event back into the community since 2015. This year we awarded over £84,000 to 27 charities operating in Highland Perthshire, plus a further £16,050 to 19 local causes in discretionary donations. It's a milestone we're proud to celebrate.

We're also thrilled to share that we have been shortlisted for two of this year's Scottish Thistle Regional Awards: **Outstanding Cultural Event or Festival and Inclusion!**

The first celebrates key cultural events that are part of Scotland's tourism offering and showcase creativity, innovation, and exceptional experiences, an honour we've won before in 2012.



The Inclusion award recognises events with a strong commitment to serving diverse audiences. From expanding autism-friendly sessions to launching a fully accessible booking platform for wheelchair users, our team has worked tirelessly to ensure the magic is shared by all.

Please keep everything crossed for us. In the meantime we can't wait to welcome you to an extraordinary *Luminara*!

Karen Bothwell, Chair,
The Enchanted Forest Community Trust



GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

This year we are celebrating ten years of the Enchanted Forest Community Fund, which continues to share the benefit of the success of the show with the local community, helping to meet some of its most pressing needs. Since 2015 the Enchanted Forest Community Trust, which administers the funding, has reinvested £522,000 back into the community of Highland Perthshire, benefitting over 185 local organisations.

This year was no different. We received our largest ever number of applications, responding by awarding £84,000 to 27 charities operating in Highland Perthshire. We specifically sought projects tackling the cost-of-living crisis, child poverty, mental health and wellbeing and social inclusion. We also prioritised initiatives that promote employment, volunteering, learning and sustainability, aiming to create lasting infrastructure and cultural benefits.

Pitlochry & District Senior Citizens Good Neighbour Association, which exists to provide a community transport service for senior citizens to enable them access to activities and services no longer available to those without independent transport, received a grant of £10,000.

This will assist with the purchase of a new replacement minibus which will cost £63,000, and will help the charity provide transport for shopping, to local coffee mornings and to church, to Day Care services provided by Alzheimer Scotland as well as trips to Fortingall Art Exhibition and The Birks Cinema.

THANK YOU!

The Enchanted Forest would not be the international success it is without the support of the community of Pitlochry and Highland Perthshire. We know that the event can cause a level of disruption during the month of October due the volume of visitors to Pitlochry, so we do appreciate your hospitality and patience, and, for our part, we do our best to listen to all concerns and address them as best we can.

Linda Watt, Chair of the Pitlochry & District Senior Citizens Good Neighbour Association, said: **"We are deeply grateful for the very generous donation from the Enchanted Forest towards the purchase of a new minibus. The minibus is run by volunteers and has been providing essential support in the neighbourhood since 1978. On behalf of our community, thank you!"**

Other charities operating in Highland Perthshire awarded grant funding include **Vision PK, Pitlochry Repair Café, Pitlochry First Responders and Active Schools Highland Perthshire**. Applications for 2026 grants will be available on **The Enchanted Forest website** early 2026.

DISCRETIONARY DONATIONS

The Trust also makes a number of discretionary donations every year to local organisations who are not registered charities or community interest groups (CICs). Since January 2025, the Trust has granted £16,050 to **19 local causes** including **Pitlochry Girl Guides, Pitlochry Winter Lights, James Court and Moulin Hall Trust**. Discretionary donations can be applied for all year round, with applications forms available on The Enchanted Forest website.



SUPPORTING LOCAL

One of our core values at the Trust is using local suppliers and businesses to support the event wherever possible. Once again, we will be using two Perthshire based transport companies to provide our shuttle buses, Auchterarder based Docherty's Midland Coaches and Pitlochry based Elizabeth Yule Transport.

Ricky Morton, Director, and Transport Manager at Elizabeth Yule Transport said: **"As a local business based in Pitlochry, we are proud to be a part of this fantastic event again for 2025."**

We have been transporting passengers to the event for over 20 years, It's one of the country's major events and brings so much to our local and surrounding communities in Highland Perthshire, proof that collaborating with local businesses is great for the local economy."

Aberfeldy based Beyond Adventure is, once again, our first aid provider and an integral part of the team. The Enchanted Forest provides a significant boost for companies in Highland Perthshire, transforming the fortunes of many hotels, restaurants and cafes in the traditionally quieter shoulder month of October, to become one of their busiest periods of the year. We want as many businesses as possible to benefit from the economic uplift the event brings.

There are several ways we can help you to reach our 85,000 visitors, many of whom are looking for places to stay, places to eat or things to do during their stay.

We actively open up our audience to local businesses through a variety of digital advertising opportunities which can be booked on our website.



GET YOUR TICKETS
NOW!

2020
THE



HIRING LOCAL TALENT

The Enchanted Forest employs around 100 seasonal staff ranging in age from 17 to 76, who support the smooth running of the event and ensure visitors have a great time.

It's a priority for us to employ as many local people as possible, with a passion for the event which is evident to all visitors. We are proud to see this reflected in feedback from last year's show with 99% rating the stewarding team as excellent. We are delighted that 70% of last year's team are returning this year.



SCAN ME

We are nearly fully staffed for this year, but we have a few stewarding vacancies left to fill. If you would like to be part of the 2025 team, please apply via this QR code.

WE'VE TEAMED UP WITH REGATTA GREAT OUTDOORS!

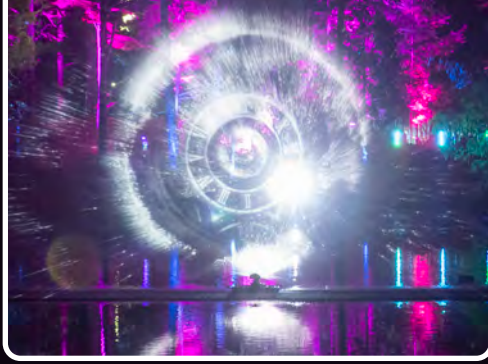
We're thrilled to share some exciting news – The Enchanted Forest has teamed up with Regatta Great Outdoors as our Official Uniform Supplier!

As the go-to outdoor brand for all the family, Regatta is kitting out our incredible stewards and staff with high-quality, weather-resistant clothing, helping them stay warm, dry, and easy to spot, no matter what the Highland Perthshire weather throws our way.

Their support means our team can focus on what they do best – creating a safe, magical, and welcoming experience for every visitor.

We're so grateful to Regatta for supporting our much-loved stewards, who keep The Enchanted Forest running smoothly. Next time you see our team glowing in their new gear, you'll know there's a little extra Regatta magic helping behind the scenes!





WHAT TO EXPECT

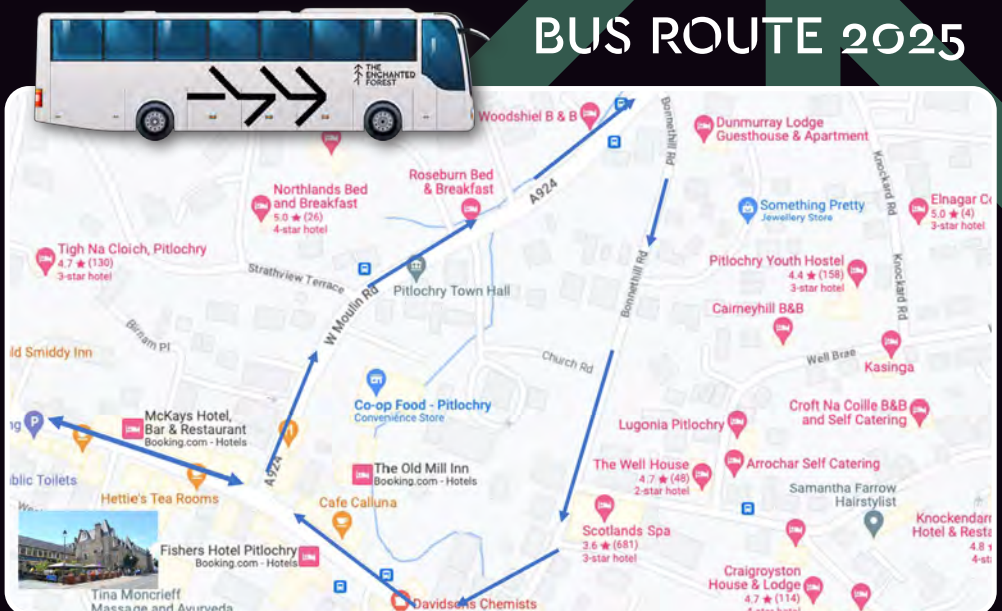
The shuttle bus route to the forest and back will remain the same as in previous years and will begin at Fisher's Hotel in Pitlochry. Fisher's Hotel is a familiar start point for our many visitors and has the advantage of allowing other local businesses to benefit from passing trade.

The chosen bus route remains the safest option available, and parking restrictions will once again be implemented by Perth and Kinross Council to ensure minimal traffic disruption from visitors. It will also remove any obstacles so that the buses can freely travel to and from Faskally Wood.

The parking restrictions include West Moulin Road and Bonnet Hill Road down to the Scotland's Spa Hotel and will reduce any congestion and bus noise overall.

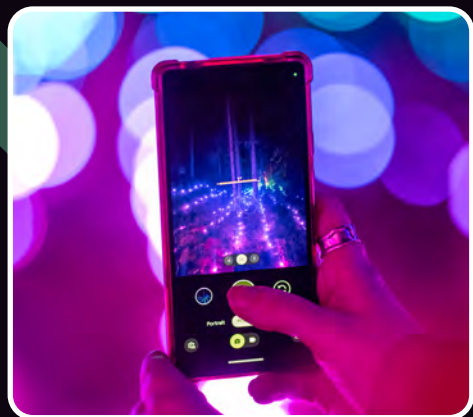
We will have a larger team of stewards this year, ensuring the smooth departure of buses throughout each night from Fisher's Hotel. We will be asking all visitors to arrive just before the start of their departure window detailed in their tickets, and not any earlier. We will also ensure they have their tickets ready to be scanned before boarding the buses. This should alleviate unnecessary congestion at the departure point.

BUS ROUTE 2025



PARKING MATTERS

Visitors to the event will be signposted to the public car parks available in Pitlochry, with additional yellow **"Event Parking"** signs erected by the AA to ensure these are clearly signposted. Visitors staying in Pitlochry will be asked to leave their vehicle at their accommodation. If parking on the street, visitors are being asked in pre-show attendance information to park considerately, to observe any parking restrictions, and not to park on yellow lines. More information on parking for the event can be found on **The Enchanted Forest website**.



HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE'S AUTUMN BOOST!

Each autumn The Enchanted Forest weaves its magic across Pitlochry and beyond, drawing visitors from far and wide and giving the local tourism economy an incredible boost. According to the latest independent economic assessment commissioned by the Trust, the event now generates an impressive £10.38 million in annual economic impact for Highland Perthshire.

An online visitor survey also found:

97%

The event was highly rated, with over 97% of visitors enjoying their visit.

90%

90% of visitors only visited Pitlochry because of the event.

51

Visitors who attended the event travelled to Pitlochry from 51 different countries.

50%

50% stayed overnight, benefitting a multitude of local businesses.

91%

91% felt overall value for money was excellent.

98%

Visitors rated the show creative at 98%, one of our highest satisfaction scores ever.

BEING ACCESSIBLE

Making the Enchanted Forest event as accessible as possible has always been a priority. We want to make the event as accessible as we can, mindful of the restrictions we might have due to the natural forest setting, and that everyone's needs can vary. This year we will be working with AccessAble to conduct a full assessment of the event and identify areas where we can continue to make improvements to the event's accessibility.

The paths of Faskally Wood are accessible for some wheelchair users, and we have a range of accessibility provisions in place which we've developed and enhanced over the years based on feedback, including our accessibility bus and the introduction of Autism friendly performances. For the 2024 show we developed a dedicated wheelchair access portal enabling wheelchair users to purchase online, and worked with local businesses to provide wheelchair hire for those traveling, delivered straight to site.



We're delighted that the passionate work our team and partners do to ensure the event is as inclusive as possible has been recognised by Visit Scotland, with The Enchanted Forest shortlisted for this year's Scottish Thistle Regional Inclusion award.



The Enchanted Forest is a spectacular immersive art experience that has become a staple of Highland Perthshire's autumn tourism season. An award-winning sound and light show, transforming the beautiful Faskally Wood into a magical destination each October. A trailblazing event which is creative, energetic and entertaining, it is one of the UK's most successful cultural events, attracting 85,000 visitors annually.

Since its inception in 2002, the event has welcomed over 872,000 visitors, creating an estimated long term economic impact of more than £83 million for Highland Perthshire over its 23-year history.

We're excited about **this year's event, Luminara, which will take place from 2 October to 2 November**. This immersive experience will take visitors on a journey through the forest brought to life by light, music, and storytelling. A celebration of the unseen connections between nature and

technology, Luminara is a timely reminder that nature and innovation can thrive in unison when we reconnect with the world around us, especially by stepping outside and immersing ourselves in places that inspire and restore.

Luminara will include a significant technological showstopper, which will, for the first time in the event's history, see the whole audience become part of a unifying immersive experience that will connect them, no matter where they are on the light trail.

LOOKING AFTER FASKALLY WOOD

The Enchanted Forest would not exist without its beautiful home, Faskally Wood. For this reason, we are dedicated to looking after it, and **its magnificent eco-system**, throughout the duration of the event and beyond.

As part of our planning, we retain a locally based independent environmental and wildlife impact assessor, **Tay Ecology**, who carry out an annual environmental impact assessment for the show.

We work with them to guide the event design and layout to ensure the event continues to have minimal impact on the forest and its wildlife.

WIN TICKETS TO THE SHOW

We're delighted to offer ten lucky local readers the chance to win family tickets to the exclusive preview night of The Enchanted Forest in Pitlochry on **Wednesday 1 October 2025**. To enter, please use the following QR code and tell us what this year's show is called.



SCAN ME



Light. Sound. Imagination.
Tickets on sale now.
enchantedforest.org.uk