

Many walks can be enjoyed in our immediate area, where seals can often be seen playing in the sea or basking on the rocky outcrops along the beach.

Go by shore or golf links northwards to Inverallochy and Cairnbulg; southwards along the beach towards the nature reserve and bird sanctuary of Loch of Strathbeg.

Eastwards are the dramatic ruins of Inverallochy Castle; while a few miles inland a short walk up Mormond Hill, with its famous White Horse, will provide a view over the whole of the north-east of Buchan.



From the beach, wind-surfers will find ample opportunities for enjoying their sport, while golfers are welcome at Inverallochy Golf Club.

For the naturalist, the dunes complex, particularly to the south of the village, provides a good range of habitats, with extensive beaches, dunes, river estuaries, farmland, small woodlands, as well as the Loch of Strathbeg itself.

For the tourist St.Combs makes a fine centre and the Tufted Duck Hotel an excellent base. The locality is rich in historic remains, from prehistoric stone circles and Pictish symbol stones, to grand houses such as Haddo and Duff House, while even Leith Hall, Brodie, Huntly and the castles of Deeside are within easy driving distance, as are lovely gardens such as Pittmedden.

Historically, the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, were bitter foes of Robert the Bruce and, in 1308 The Bruce sent his brother Edward to ravage the Comyn lands.

The whole province was laid waste, with almost a dozen castles taken from the forces of Comyn or the English, from Slains and Fyvie, all along the coastal belt to Elgin and Nairn. (The ruins of Inverallochy are of a later castle built on the site).

The village of St.Combs is situated on the Buchan coast some five miles south-east of Fraserburgh.

An 18th Century planned village, it is built above a fossilised raised beach, with vast and un-interrupted views and truly magnificent golden sandy beaches.

Being just off the sign-posted "Coastal Trail", the village remains a quiet and unspoilt community, yet close enough to the amenities of town.



Although within the Burial Ground are the remains of an ancient church dedicated to St.Columba, it is thought that the village itself is named after St.Colm, a follower of St.Drostan. St.Combs is shown on a map of 1654, while the Parish registers refer in 1787 to "Seatown of St.Combs".

The church, of which little now remains, was abandoned in 1608 in favour of Lonmay, in which Parish the village now lies. The Burial Ground, though, remained in use for the villages of Cairnbulg and Inverallochy, just along the coast.

Between the wars the village supported some five general shops, two dairies, a butcher's, a baker's, a shoemaker's, and a Post Office. Now just the Post Office and two shops remain.

The railway line (1903-1964), now provides a pleasant walk, overlooking Charleston and beyond to the sea.



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Charleston

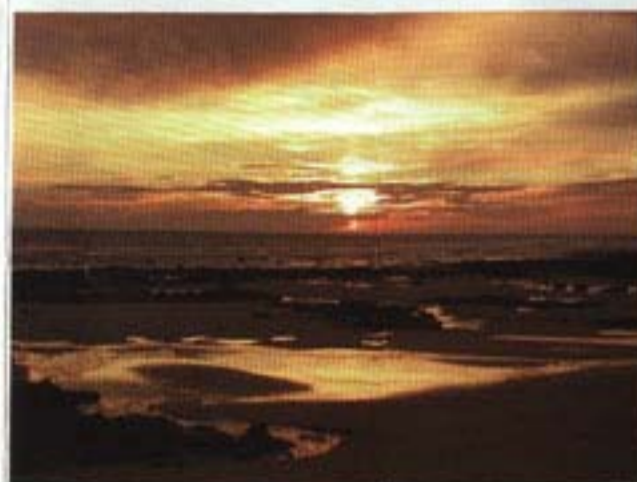
The northern boundary of the village, and of the Parish of Lonmay, is provided by the Mill Burn, or Mullwater, beyond which is the little enclave of Charleston. Situated here in the Parish of Rathen, this was most probably named for Charles Fraser, 6th Laird of Inverallochy, the owner of the lands about 1760, the village being founded about the end of the 18th Century.

Beyond Charleston is a charming example of "Swords into plough-shares" with a tiny harbour formed from concrete blocks which were originally war-time coastal defences, as were the concrete "pill-boxes, still to be seen at roughly half-mile intervals along the coast.



The "Harbour"

Welcome
to



The Beach at Sunrise

St.Combs

Social and Activities groups in the village include:-

- Arts and Crafts
- Badminton
- B.B's
- Brownies
- Home League
- Indoor Bowling
- Masons(InverSt.Cairns)
- Martial Arts
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Over 50's Club
- Playgroup
- St.Combs A.F.C.
- St.Combs Annual Walk
- St.Combs Colts
- St.Combs & Charleston Comm. Assoc.
- St.Combs Gala &Playing Fields Assoc.
- W.R.I.
- Youth Club.

There is also an annual Gala Day, with entertainment for a great family day out.

Churches:-

- Assemblies of God
- Free Church of Scotland
- Lonmay Parish Church
- St.Combs Community Church
- Sunday Schools

Shops:-

- Londis, general store.
- Buchan's, with their own ice cream and a "chippie".
- Post Office, with a wide range of services.

Hotel:-

- The Tufted Duck.