

# NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter for all the communities in the Ferintosh Community Council area - [www.ferintoshcc.co.uk](http://www.ferintoshcc.co.uk)



*Ferintosh Community Council area Noticeboard - like us on Facebook*

*Issue 51 Feb 2018*

## CCT Fundraising Quiz

The next fundraising event organised by the Culbokie Community Trust will be the CCT Quiz Night on Saturday March 17th.



This will take place in Findon Hall at 7pm, led by Quiz-master Carolyn Morrison.

Ten exciting rounds with a few extra surprises! The entry fee for a team of four is £20 and wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale.

Those wishing to take part should register by sending an email to: [event@culbokiect.org](mailto:event@culbokiect.org), either as a full team of four (maximum) or with the name(s) of those wishing to be put into a team. The entry fees will be collected on the night.

The evening should be great fun and we look forward to welcoming everyone; no specialist knowledge - or indeed any - required!

## Hospice fundraiser

March must be when we all like to exercise the grey matter as another fundraising quiz is planned on Friday 23rd March in the Ferintosh Hall, starting at 7pm.

Paul and Sonya Diss-Evans are raising money for the Highland Hospice as Paul is taking part in this years Strictly Inverness.

The proceeds will be split between the Highland Hospice and Inverness Ice Centre.

It is strongly advised that you book your table of six for £30 (including Stovies) by contacting Sonya via Facebook, e-mailing [dissevans@gmail.com](mailto:dissevans@gmail.com) or calling 07496 655013.

**The next newsletter** is due out mid April - The final **deadline for news is Friday 16 March** but the sooner the better!

Please send **items for inclusion** in the newsletter or on the Facebook Page to Carol Elliot on [elliottcarnmor@btinternet.com](mailto:elliottcarnmor@btinternet.com)

For **distribution** queries or to **volunteer** to deliver in your area contact Roger Piercy on [roger.piercy167@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.piercy167@btinternet.com)

**To be added to the Community Council e-mail update** contact Bruce Morrison on [ferintoshcc30@gmail.com](mailto:ferintoshcc30@gmail.com) and keep up to date with all CC news and give your opinion on local matters.

# Culbokie Community Trust - news



## Community Market

The spring markets are at Findon Hall, Culbokie on Saturday 17th February and Saturday 17th March from 10am – 12.30pm. Lots of local produce including fish, beef, venison, pork, vegetables, cheese, cakes and chocolate as well as local craft items, jewellery, bags, paintings, cards and much more. Local charities provide brunches and teas/cakes at all the markets so come along, enjoy a cuppa and a chat and support them.

Markets continue throughout the year on the 3rd Saturday of each month. This year the market celebrates its 10th Anniversary on 19th May. We hope to have some special activities and events so be sure to make a note in your diary.

You can keep up-to-date with news and events on the Facebook Page – Culbokie Community Market.

If you wish to take part in a market please contact Sylvie on: [market@culbokie.org](mailto:market@culbokie.org) or telephone 07926 044 064

## Ferintosh Institute

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Ferintosh Community Hall.

The March 7th meeting will include a talk by Catriona Meiklejohn of Brae Interiors and April 4th is a talk by Cromarty Lighthouse Field Station.

## CCT History Group

By posting old Culbokie Primary School photos on our renamed “Group photographs associated with Culbokie” page on our website we helped an Australian with family connections to Culbokie see, for the first time, photographs of their mother as a pupil. We are still looking for names of pupils, so there must be relatives out there who could help. We have also posted interior photos of the school in the 1970s.

We will soon be posting photos of the beakers that were found in a pre-historic cist in a field at Findon Mains and have updated the links to information relating to Kinbeachie Castle.

A new chapter, “War Memorials in the Parish of Urquhart” has been posted which will allow readers to access the history behind the names on the memorials.

There is more material in the pipeline so keep watching [www.culbokiect.org](http://www.culbokiect.org) : “History of Culbokie”.

## Evergreen Lunch Club

The first Monday of each month: soup and home baking for those who are retired. All are very welcome.

At Ferintosh Free Church, 12noon to 1.30pm. Contact Carol on 864993 or Helen 862546.

## Culbokie Church Centre - update

**Soup Lunches** will be held on Saturdays 24 February and 31 March, 12-2pm in Findon Hall.

**The Women's Fellowship Group** meets 7.30pm on Thursdays 15 February and 15 March. Contact: Maureen Rose (877435).

**The Senior Citizen's Friendship Group** resumes on Monday 5

March, 2-4pm. Contact: Maureen Rose (877435)

**The Man Friday group** usually meet on the last Friday of the month at 7.30pm. Contact: Roger Piercy (877401)

New faces are warmly welcomed to any of these activities.

See [www.culbokiechurchcentre.org](http://www.culbokiechurchcentre.org) website and Facebook for more details.

## Ferintosh Community Council News

A little while ago I read an article that went under the title "Community Councils: Are they the last bastion of local democracy or are they wasting their time?". The article was written on the premise that large local authorities often have remote, centralised decision-making processes that fail to take account of the needs and views of local residents. On the other hand, Community Councils are genuinely local and have the prime purpose of representing the views of local people. However, Community Councils usually have no resources other than the time and effort of volunteer councillors. Consequently, they often don't have the resources needed to achieve their objectives and they can be ignored by large local authorities.

I will use last year's loss of the

commuter bus services between Culbokie and Inverness to demonstrate that, in some ways, the answer to both parts of the question is "yes". Highland Council undertook its tender process for bus services, awarded contracts and agreed bus timetables without any consultation with the residents of Culbokie. A consequence of this was that the lifeline morning and evening commuter bus services to and from Inverness were withdrawn. This seems to me to be a fine example of remote, centralised decision-making not taking account of residents' needs. Since then, residents and Ferintosh Community Council (FCC) have put an enormous effort into getting the commuter services reinstated but, nine months on, we haven't succeeded and there is no sign that the services will be reinstated in the foreseeable future. So, it could be argued that we have been wasting our time and that remote, centralised decision-making has prevailed.

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There is, though, a glimmer of light at the end of the dark tunnel of centralised bureaucracy. Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, Community Councils now have a statutory right to submit Participation Requests to ensure that local authorities involve residents in their decision-making processes. If it had been possible to submit a Participation Request in respect of the Culbokie bus services, residents' views would have been taken into account at key stages of the process and we may have retained our lifeline bus services. FCC is currently considering the most appropriate approach to take to Participation Requests and this includes the possibility of developing a consistent approach across all of the Black Isle Community Councils.

Moving seamlessly to a completely different take on participation requests, you may recall that I mentioned in the previous issue of Noticeboard that FCC's primary objective is to represent the views of residents, and that our main means of doing this is through our email consultation list. At present, the list contains the contact details of approximately 40 per cent of the local electorate, but we would like to increase this to 50 per cent to add even more weight to the opinions that FCC submits on behalf of its residents. If you are not currently on our list, may I make a further

request to you to participate in local democracy by providing us with your contact details so that we can represent your opinions. You can do this by email at [ferintoshcc30@gmail.com](mailto:ferintoshcc30@gmail.com) or by phoning us on 01349 877127. This will only take a few minutes of your time, but you will be making a valuable and much appreciated contribution to FCC's work.

Finally for this time, it has been reported to us that household waste has been dumped in and around the amenity bin that is situated outside the shop in Culbokie. This not only creates an unsightly mess in the centre of the village and prevents the bin from being used for its intended purposes, but we have also been informed by Highland Council that this is classed as fly-tipping and can be subject to a fine of between £200 and £20,000 and, in extreme cases, a prison sentence. So, if the culprits happen to read this, don't say that you haven't been warned!

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at our public meetings at either Culbokie Primary School, Ferintosh Hall or Mulbuie Hall.

*Colin Lawrence*

Chair, Ferintosh Community Council

### **Next Community Council meetings:**

- Monday 19 February - 7pm, Ferintosh
- Monday 19 March - 7pm, Culbokie
- Monday 16 April - 7pm, Mulbuie