



THE CHRISTMAS NOTICEBOARD

MULBUIE * FERINTOSH * CULBOKIE

FILL CULBOKIE

WITH LIGHT



LIGHT UP CULBOKIE FOR CHRISTMAS



INSIDE



CHRISTMAS IN
CULBOKIE

FIND OUT ABOUT THE
KNITTING
COMPETIONS FOR
KIDS ON THE BLACK
ISLE

UPDATE ON THE
PANTO GROUP

CHRISTMAS MARKET
INFO

CHRISTMAS RECIPIES

AND MORE.....





Hello all,

This will be the last issue of The Noticeboard for 2020, so even though it's only November I will take this time to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Despite us not being able to have our family get togethers this year I hope your Christmas will still be enjoyable for you and you get to make it magical in a different way.

Thank you everyone who sent me emails about how much you liked the Special Remembrance Day edition, and previous editions as well.

I thoroughly enjoy doing The Noticeboard each month and getting to be more creative with it. It's nice to know people are appreciating the work I put in.

As of this issue, as well as the digital copy that goes out on email and the Facebook page, there will also be physical copies on the Culbokie Community Trust stall at Culbokie market the Saturday after The Noticeboard has gone out. Because of this, from this issue on I will be sending The Noticeboard out on the Wednesday before the last market in the month, so I need your articles by the deadline given.

Any articles received after the deadline will either have to wait until the next issue or won't be included.

DEADLINE: SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY

Anyway, until next year I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Let's hope 2021 is better than 2020!

*Eilidh
Editor of The Noticeboard*

Active Travel Map gets second update

Transition Black Isle has published the Third Edition of its map *The Black Isle by foot, bike, bus and train*.

The map is two sided. One side provides detailed maps of nine Black Isle settlements (including Culbokie), while the other covers the Black Isle and beyond to Inverness, Beaulieu and Alness. The general map shows the main paths and tracks you can walk and suggested routes between Black Isle communities for both hardy and leisure cyclists.

Today most people rely on maps on their mobile phones, but the maps provided free ignore the footpath network entirely. Ordnance Survey maps are notoriously out of touch in mapping what is, or is not, a possible track for getting around. Transition Black Isle's map has been tested and updated by Black Isle residents with their feet on the ground or with their bikes in the woods.

For the new edition of the map, around 40 more footpaths are included. Some are outside the Black Isle but in the area covered by the map. These include paths along the Rivers Conon and Beaulieu, in Strath Peffer, and around Evanton and Alness. Nearer to Culbokie, the footpath network has been improved. There are extra mapped paths in many local woods; Culbokie Wood, Knockbain

Wood, Bogbuie Wood, Drummondreach and Easter Oak Woods. Further afield a network of drier paths in the vicinity of Monadh Mòr and Simon's Loch are shown, as is the new John o' Groats Trail passing through Culbokie. For cyclists, a short rerouting of the Avoch to Culbokie off-road cycle link has been made. following safety concerns from encroaching vegetation.

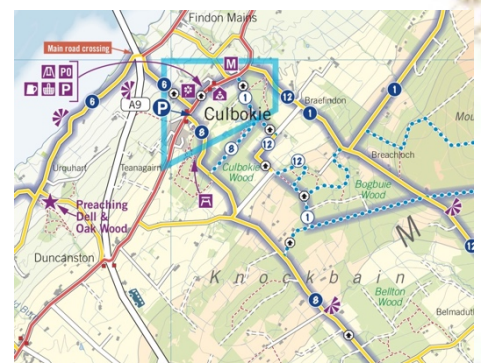
Nobody knows what the future may bring but focusing one's leisure near to home is certainly good for the planet. The Black Isle is promoted as a good area for Slow Tourism - and with the new Black Isle map there is enough to explore to keep the curious engaged for some time. Don't worry, the minor, minor paths are not mapped - they are for you to find serendipitously.

Feedback from users of the map will help make future editions of the map a more reliable source of information. I hope the maps encourage more people to explore locally, and reflecting the strap-line of the Black Isle Tourism Team, they may savour the unexpected.

The map is priced 50p and is available from the Culbokie Post Office and a few local shop, or by post (price £1.15 with postage included)

For more information on the map and purchasing it: <https://www.transitionblackisle.org/active-travel-map>

[Article by Julian Paren](#)



FILL CULBOKIE WITH LIGHT

THROUGHOUT THE AGES,
FOR FAITHS AND NON-FAITHS,
LIGHT HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF WINTER FESTIVITIES.
THIS YEAR, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP TO 'FILL CULBOKIE WITH
LIGHT' BY DECORATING SOMETHING IN YOUR GARDEN. IT COULD
BE A TREE, A HEDGE, OR EVEN YOUR SHED. CHOOSE A THEME; PICK A
COLOUR SCHEME; CHOOSE SOLAR POWERED LIGHTS - THE CHOICE IS
YOURS. FROM SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER THROUGH TO WEDNESDAY
6TH JANUARY LET'S GIVE CULBOKIE A FESTIVE GLOW FOR US ALL TO
ENJOY. ~WRITTEN BY BECKY RICHMOND~

**LIGHT UP FOR
CHRISTMAS**

FILL CULBOKIE WITH LIGHT

YOU CAN DECORATE THE OUTSIDE OF
YOUR HOUSE. DECORATE BUSHES,
TREES OR FRONT LAWNS. WE WANT
CULBOKIE TO LOOK AS
CHRISTMASSY AND MAGICAL AS
POSSIBLE.

Have you tried knitting? Then enter our knitting competition!

Win a prize in our knitting competition for all children on the Black Isle.

Please send a photograph of your knitted item with your name, age and school to kyrie@ibnetworks.net by 21 December 2020.

The prizes are funded by the Karen Napier Fund and the categories are:

- **1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for children aged seven years and under.**
- **1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for children aged eight years up to 11 years of age.**

We also have a prize for best adult beginners too, for those who started knitting in 2020.

Winners will be chosen by an independent panel based on technique, creativity and colour. Good luck!



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

R	E	F	K	M	C	Y	Y	Y	S	J	X	M
E	K	E	S	N	F	N	S	C	J	S	L	I
E	Q	S	R	W	H	E	A	X	E	W	I	S
D	K	K	L	T	I	N	R	A	T	S	G	T
N	B	C	T	K	D	S	L	E	I	G	H	L
I	C	A	O	Y	R	A	S	K	E	T	T	E
E	Z	O	C	I	H	A	S	H	B	L	S	T
R	C	A	S	G	N	I	K	C	O	T	S	O
N	N	I	U	T	B	S	C	V	D	Y	B	E
E	C	F	A	Q	R	O	F	P	Z	H	B	C

1. SANTA
2. TREE
3. LIGHTS
4. REINDEER
5. STOCKINGS
6. STAR
7. SLEIGH
8. COOKIES
9. MISTLETOE
10. CANDYCANES



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Christmas Spiced Martini

- 50ml Christmas Spiced Gin*
- 10ml amaretto*
- 10ml simple syrup (or gingerbread syrup)*
- Dash of orange bitters (optional)*
- Orange peel, to garnish*



Stir all the ingredients together with ice until very cold, then strain into a chilled martini or coupe cocktail glass. Garnish with a twist of orange peel and serve immediately! You can also add 15ml of vermouth for a more authentic martini flavour - you might want to reduce the amount of gin if you do this, as it packs quite the punch!

CULBOKIE PANTO 2020 UDATE

As you have probably all worked out by now, there won't be a Culbokie Panto this year. We are all greatly saddened by this. Well most of us are. Some are quite pleased at the fact they now have a whole year in which to learn their lines, so that by next Christmas they will at least know the first act by heart. We have several projects lined up for next year, including the panto, so fingers crossed we will back on the stage and hiding from the paparazzi again next year!





*’Twas the night before Christmas,
When all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.
And mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winters nap.
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutter and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old drive so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.
More rapid than eagles his courses they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them
by name:
“now Dasher, now Dancer,
Now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! And the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!”
As the leaves before that the wild hurricane flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St Nicholas top-
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,*

*The prance and pawing of each little hoof. As I
drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a
bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his
foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and
soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his
pack.
His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples, how
merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it circled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed like a bowl full of
jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his
work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a
jerk.
And laying a finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod up the chimney he rose!
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaimed, ere he drove out of
sight-
“Merry Christmas to all, and to
all a good night!”*





The Culbokie Panto Saga

In the year 2013, in the mists of the Scottish Highlands, there was a quiet and peaceful village known as Culbokie. From its midst arose a quine of great stature named Sheena, a leader amongst peasants, who made a proclamation to the masses at the Culbokie Gathering saying 'let there be a village panto'.

A splendid auditorium called Findon Hall was available nearby equipped with stage, house lights, heating and with a capacity for over 100 audience. A meeting was duly held and an announcement made that a Babes in the Wood variation would be performed forthwith, having been suitably amended by Sheena herself to Culbokie standards. Starring roles, such as trees, spider, etc. were allocated with Sheena herself cast as a witch, and Sinclair as a sturdy oak – complete with a bird's nest on his head.

The lack of curtains, stage lights and scenery were not considered a drawback but would undoubtedly add to the charm of the performance. A commoner could occasionally walk across in front of the stage waving a notice advising the audience of what was actually happening.

This generated untold excitement in the village and there were scuffles breaking out amongst those wishing a ticket for the two performances. The sell-out houses led to great critical acclaim and a suggested Oscar nomination, although modesty forced her to decline.

Flushed with success, and by popular demand, plans were immediately set in place to continue under Sheena's leadership for the following year. By then curtains had been acquired, stage lights and a stage extension purchased so the success of Sleeping Beauty was a foregone conclusion. The cast numbers were increasing, although the press gang had to be employed on a few occasions. A film contract was offered but not accepted.

The insatiable demand for tickets was causing problems leading to black market dealing, so to forestall this a matinee was added making three performances for Cinderella. This again attracted rave reviews and regrettably a TV spectacular had to be turned down in case it brought hordes of tourists in camper vans to Culbokie.

By now Sheena had reached legendary status and decided to pass the buck organisation to veteran cast members, to whom she had imparted both her knowledge and the qualities required to encourage, cajole, persuade and gurn at the cast to get maximum results.

And so the Culbokie panto has progressed during the last four years. There is now an even bigger cast including a primary school section. Sound effects, flashing lights, pyrotechnics and state of the art backcloths have been added ensuring continued success for many years to come.

None of this would have come to pass had it not been for the foresight of the legend that is Sheena Young and a wee hand-out at the Culbokie Gathering. ~Written by Andy Scott~



Culbokie Outdoor Market Saturday 21st November

Findon Hall Car Park

10:00 - 12:00



Christmas Theme Special Event

A chance to order Christmas foods
and buy quality gifts plus
refreshments

Contactless card payments for most purchases
Cash for refreshments please

Social distancing will be observed

Culbokie Community Trust Limited. A company limited by guarantee.
Registered in Scotland No: SC4810940
Registered Scottish Charity SC045867
Registered office: Frame Kennedy,
Metropolitan House, 31-33 High St, Inverness. IV1 1HT

Culbokie Sharing Shed

Now OPEN – in car park beside church

Mon – Fri 1200-1530 Sat 1000-1300

What's available?

- Lots of food and household items
- Toys and games
- Books and DVDs and more
- Apples – eating and cooking

Please have a look, bring and/or take items – please deposit any donated items in the boxes behind the shed.

Everyone is welcome to make use of the shed

Funded by: Black Isle Partnership and Ferintosh Community Council

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
MEMORIES

Dea ye mind o'
Christmas lang ago,
When we were only
wee?

There wurnea
phones nur

Laptoaps,

In the presents

'neath the tree,

We were happy wi

a jigsaw,

An annual or a
game.

A dolly fur the
lassies,

An fur the lads a
train.

sometimes if we
were lucky,

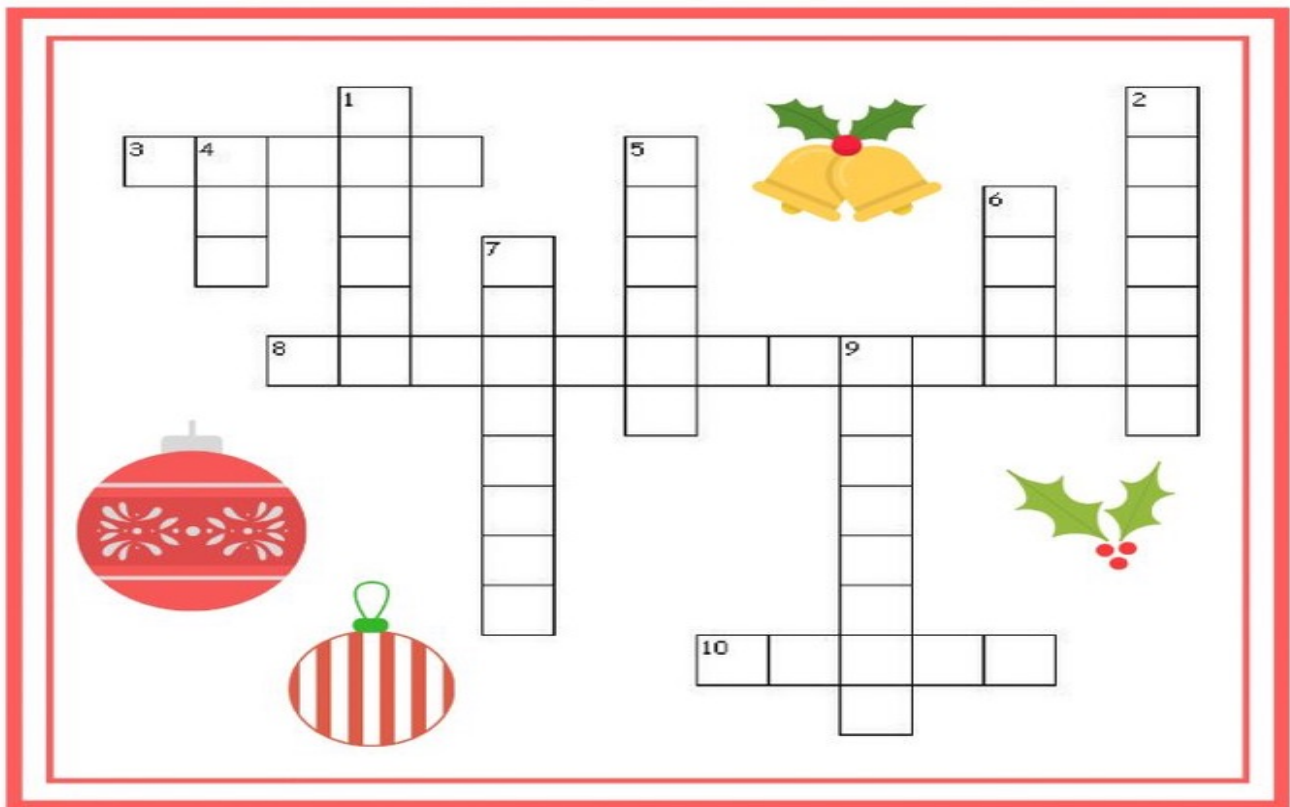
A big selection box.

Then sometimes,
no se lucky

Yer granny's knitted
socks!

~Anon~

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. What does Santa Ride In? | 6. Goes On Top Of The Tree |
| 2. Santa Likes To Eat _____ | 7. What Animal Is Rudolph |
| 3. Jingle _____ | 8. What Do You Decorate With Ornaments? |
| 4. I Help Make Toys | 9. Santa Fills These With Presents |
| 5. You Hang This On The Door | 10. I Have A Jolly Laugh |

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Answers from October Edition

THE NOTICEBOARD QUIZ

1. ROSEMARKIE
2. THE FAIRY GLEN
3. THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN
4. CONCKERS
5. ROSKILL
6. MANSE LOCH
7. ROE DEER
8. THIRD MONDAY
9. LEARNIE/ RED ROCK
10. MOUNT EAGLE/ CNOC NAN CRAISEAG

11. GEESE
12. SIR JOHN LISTER-KAYE
13. RED CASTLE
14. BLACK STAND
15. CULBOKIE INN
16. MULBUIE
17. SUN FISH
18. UNION TAVERN
19. CULBOKIE
20. FORTROSE CATHERDRAL

WORLD SCRAMBLE

QUILT
LEAVES
SEPTEMBER
CHESTNUTS
AUTUMN
FOOTBALL
SQUASH

Autumn Afternoon Clean-Up

On a mission to spruce up Culbokie and its surrounding areas, Ferintosh Volunteers are planning an autumn afternoon clean up in readiness for St Andrew's Day. Litter-pickers, bin bags, protective gloves and Hi-Viz vests will be available for those wishing to help keep our community tidy and litter-free. Whether on your own, or as a household or family group, you are very welcome to come along.

When? 1.30 – 3.30pm on Saturday, November 28th(not exactly St Andrews Day, but very close!)

Where? Recycling Car Park, adjacent to Culbokie Sports Ground

If you would like to spend an hour or so helping to improve our home ground, please email ferintosh.volunteers@btinternet.com by Friday November 20th so that we have an idea of the number of small groups to manage each area.

To comply with the Coronavirus Tier 1 restrictions we'll be arranging teams of no more than 6 people from a maximum of 2 separate households (children under 12 do not count towards these numbers) so this could turn out to be a real family event.

Littered locations have already been identified, although we're sure there are even more both in the village and beyond. So please do get in touch with suggestions of spots which have high levels of litter so that we know where we should focus our efforts.

~written by Angie Morris~



The kind of litter discovered on our last litter-pick event in mid-September

Home-crafted

To raise funds for the Glascairn project, members of Culbokie Community Trust will be running a stall at the extended two-hour market on Saturday November 21st. They have been busy crafting, baking and potting and would appreciate extra home-made items, particularly on a Christmas theme, that you might be willing to donate. Home-crafted items are all welcome. If you are able to support the stall, please email details to us at event@culbokiect.org so that we can arrange collection. There will be a variety of home-crafted gifts for sale, including original greetings cards featuring photographs of Black Isle winter landscapes.



Winter Pasture from a photograph by John Brierley



Winter on Black Isle from a photograph by Sue Brierley

To help build the seasonal spirit at the market, a Xmas Raffle will be drawn for three special prizes generously donated by CCT members: a 70cl bottle of Jura Single Malt Scotch Whisky, a bottle of Kaiken Aventura Cabernet Sauvignon and a beautifully decorated Christmas Cake by Fiona Newman. Raffle tickets will be on sale on the 21st and the winning tickets will be drawn at the close of the market. Colours of the Black Isle 2021 wall and desk calendars have already proved popular, and there will also be copies available on Saturday, at further weekly outdoor markets in Culbokie, Culbokie Spar Shop and the Cheese House, Cromarty. ~Written by Angie Morris~



Findon Hall 100 Club

For those who don't know, the Findon Hall has been running a very local 'lottery' for many years to help fund the hall. A 100 club allows local residents the monthly opportunity to win one of 3 cash prizes (£25, £15 or £10) for an input of £1 per month. The member pays £12 for the year, giving them 12 chances to win in our draw! If anyone would like to join, can they please e-mail

findonhall@yahoo.com

Alastair generally comes around a month before Santa to collect subscriptions but this year we will be asking existing members to pay by direct debit if they can or by bank transfer to save Alastair this trip at this time. Please message or e-mail

findonhall@yahoo.com for details or contact Alastair or Sheila on 01349 800153. ~Written by Barbara Gray~

CHRISTMAS 2020

*This year has been so crazy,
It's one we won't forget.
Things have changed from day to day,
No one knew what was coming next.*

*Neighbours came together,
We clapped on Thursday nights.
It made us all re-evaluate,
The important things in life.*

*So, Christmas this year will be special,
Whoever we spend it with.
Love, kindness and compassion,
Are the best gifts we can give.*

~Unknown~

FCC CHAIRS REPORT

Well, here we are, almost at the end of another year and the final edition of The Noticeboard. What a year it has been. 2020 has been a challenge for Community Councils and Community volunteers. For all that it has been tough on people, some good things have come out of it. We very quickly had to embrace technology and move our meetings online. This has allowed us a degree of flexibility as to when we hold our meetings and has also resulted in residents 'popping in' to see how we conduct ourselves, who would not normally have had time to join us at a physical meeting.

As we have come to expect, residents across the FCC area stepped up to the mark and really looked after each other. From our original Volunteer List has evolved the Ferintosh Volunteers who are keen to build on the community spirit we've seen over the past few months. They have another litter pick organised for Saturday 28th November. I know they would love to have some family helpers.

We also have the wonderful online edition of The Noticeboard, which so many have kindly taken the time to comment favourably on. Huge thanks to Eildih for putting so much work into each edition.

The Community Market moved outside and has become the hub of the village for an hour each Saturday. It's great to see so many people continue to support local businesses. This coming Saturday is the Christmas Market, so why not get a head start with the Christmas shopping and pop along to support the stall holders.

The Culbokie Community Trust have opened the fabulous Sharing Shed. A fantastic community facility that is available for everyone to make use. There are lots of great items for the taking, or, perhaps you have some items you would like to donate to the shed. It's well worth supporting.

Our new Community Councillors have been in place for almost a year now. Although I've not yet persuaded any of them to take on the role of Chair, they have become an excellent team and have supported Bruce, Eildih and I in our office bearing roles.

Following a few Covid related holdups, the new 40mph speed limit is now in place on a section of the B9169 at Mulbuie school. This project was initially led by Colin Lawrence, before he stepped down as a community councillor last year. FCC would like to express our thanks to our former colleague and also to Councillor Angela MacLean, who has assisted FCC in keeping this project moving forward. Many thanks to you both.

The project to begin a trial of the Ferintosh Community Bus continues to make good progress although the start date won't be until very early in the New Year. We'll clearly have some way to go before we see bus usage come back to normal but, say by next summer, we could well have our own small electric vehicle, fully accessible, available for flexible transport use, days and evenings, seven days a week. A huge thanks to Bruce for getting the project to this point. Where we can, we have continued to engage with residents and we would like to say thank you to all of you who take the time to send us your considered responses when we consult with you.

Not all Community Councils have survived this year, with many councillors stepping down due to Volunteer fatigue. Despite the fact that 5 of us carry out our commitments alongside working and studying, I'm exceedingly grateful that we have all hung in there. However, sadly, we are having to say goodbye to Eildih, who is standing down as a Councillor in order to focus on her studies and an increase in working hours. From all of us, thank you for taking on the role of Treasurer this year and for coming on board when you did. I'm delighted to say, Eildih will still be producing The Noticeboard.

Hopefully, 2021 will begin to see a return to something nearer normality. Whatever it brings, FCC will continue to work on behalf of our residents.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Hopeful New Year when it comes around. We will be taking a well earned break in December, but look forward to seeing some of you in January.

Becky Richmond
Chair

