



THE NOTICEBOARD



Editors Note

Can't believe this is the September issue already! Hope everyone is keeping well. I'm continuing to put together The Noticeboard every other month, so the next edition will be due out in November. However, I will also put together for December a program of any Christmas events that are taking place and this will go out the first week of December (can't believe I'm talking about Christmas!) So I have two deadlines for you.

November Edition deadline: Friday 22nd October

December Program Deadline: Friday 26th November

Culbokie Active Travel Route

Thanks to everyone who responded to the recent CCT consultation on our developing plans for an Active Travel Route through Culbokie. We were delighted to see that the great majority agreed with our proposals, and we also welcomed some really useful suggestions to improve the plans - which, as far as possible, we'll integrate into the next stage. This will lead to technical plans, which can then be used to put the construction work out to tender. We will also be working closely with The Highland Council over the next weeks and months. They have already said they support the plans in general terms, and now we need to ensure they are comfortable with the details, and agree to formally adopt the new infrastructure.

Our contacts at Sustrans have produced a [summary of the consultation results](#), including more details about how we are responding to the comments.

For anyone who has missed the details of what is planned, there is [more information](#) available on the CCT website.



Slow cooker Sticky Toffee Pudding

Ingredients

250g pitted dates, chopped
100g butter, plus extra for the basin

4 tbsp treacle

1 tsp vanilla extract

250g light brown soft sugar

300ml double cream

2 eggs, lightly beaten

200g self-raising flour

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

vanilla ice cream, to serve

Method

STEP 1 Put the dates in a heatproof bowl, cover with 150ml boiling water, and leave to soak for 30 mins. Butter a 1-litre pudding basin and line the base with baking parchment.

STEP 2 Tip half the butter, half the treacle, the vanilla, 75g of the sugar and the cream into a pan set over a medium heat. Cook for 4-5 mins, stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Turn up the heat, bubble for 3 mins, then whisk in a pinch of salt. Pour a third of the sauce into the basin.

STEP 3 Beat the remaining butter, treacle, sugar and the eggs together, then fold in the flour, bicarb, ¼ tsp salt, the dates and their soaking liquid. Spoon into the basin and smooth the surface, leaving a 1cm gap from the top. Cover with a double layer of baking parchment and foil, making a pleat in the middle so the pud can expand. Secure with kitchen string.

STEP 4 Set the slow cooker to low. Sit the basin inside, then add boiling water so it comes halfway up the basin. Cover and cook for 7-8 hrs. Run a knife around the edge of the pudding and turn out onto a plate. Reheat the remaining sauce and pour over. Serve with ice cream.

THANK YOU!

Allan Forysth has moved into his new house behind the shop and would like to thank all the residents who helped him move for their considerable help!

5 Riddles to Ponder

1. I come once in a minute,
Twice in a moment,
But never in a thousand
years.
What am I?

2. I always run, but never
walk.
I have a bed, but I do not
sleep.
I have a mouth, but I don't
eat.
What am I?

3. You hear my sound,
You feel me when I move,
But see me you never will.
What am I?

4. I follow you all day long
but you can not see me when
the light is gone. What am I?

5. A cowboy rides into town
on Friday. He stays two days,
then leaves on Saturday. How
can this be?

Culbokie Community Outdoor Market

Every Saturday 10.00-11.00

Findon Hall Car Park

High quality local food

All the usual food stalls and much more including:
Ann's jams, Jo's plants, Lismhor Pottery, tweed,
wool and knitted items, cards and prints.

Make it a date and support our local producers

Indoor markets are back

Saturday 18th September 1000-1200

Food and crafts and much more
(Food vans still outside 1000-1100)

Supporting local traders – see you there
Please wear a face covering

Culbokie Sharing Shed

Open Every Day 0900-1800 (2000 on Wed)

Many thanks for your continued support and many donations.

The Sharing Shed has now been open for 10 months and is being well used by folk of all ages (2-92). This would not be possible without the regular support of the volunteers. Our grateful thanks also go to those who regularly donate items for the shed, particularly the excellent fresh produce such as raspberries, blackcurrants, cucumbers and runner beans. Your support is much appreciated. We would also like to say 'thank you' for the ongoing financial support from the Ward Discretionary Fund which allows us to continue to provide some food and household items on a weekly basis.

So, if you are looking for a good book to read, a jigsaw, children's toys, plants, food items or toiletries, you know where to come. Financial donations, while not obligatory, are much appreciated to help with purchasing various items to keep the shed stocked.

If you have unwanted items that others might use please bring them along to the shed.

To keep up-to-date with what's available join the Culbokie Sharing Shed group on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/343545136916931/>

Culbokie Lockdown Quilt



During last summer’s lockdown the CCT fundraising group coordinated the creation of a patchwork quilt. The patches were made by local residents and depicted an aspect of their personal experience of lockdown or that of a local group they represent. The 48 patches were stitched together into three panels which have been framed and hung in Findon Hall. One of the three panels is shown above. Come along to the first post-lockdown Culbokie Indoor Market on 18th September and you will be able to view these extraordinary panels for yourself.

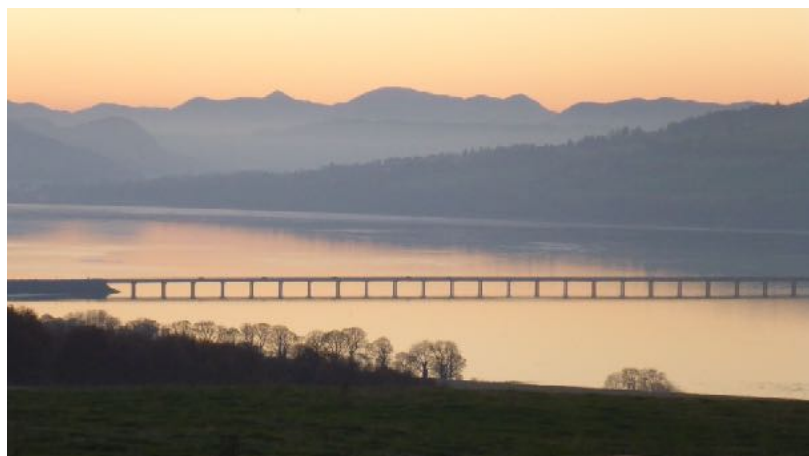
Each patch-maker wrote a paragraph explaining their patch and these have been compiled into a booklet along with the story of the quilt’s creation. We hope the booklet will be on sale at the market on the 18th and later via www.culbokiect.org and other local outlets, yet to be announced.

Images of the Black Isle Calendars 2022

Striking images of the Black Isle, skilfully captured by entrants of Black Isle Photographic Competitions of the last three years, will be featured in the Black Isle 2022 calendars. The image above of the Cromarty Bridge by Martin Sherring is one of the photographs included in each calendar. Once again, we will be offering both a wall calendar and a desk version.

These can be pre-ordered at the CCT stall at Culbokie Community Indoor Market on Saturday September 18th or by emailing us at event@culbokiect.org.

The 2022 Black Isle calendars can also be ordered online via the CCT website (www.culbokiect.org). The wall and desk calendars, respectively £8 and £10, will make ideal presents for family and friends, for fans of the Black Isle or for your own use.



The results of the Black Isle Photo Competition 2021

Congratulations to all who submitted photographs in this year's Black Isle Photo Competition, on the theme 'Food and Drink of the Black Isle'. The judges were impressed with the overall standard, and the way in which entrants rose to the challenge of portraying (in the words of judge, Sandy Young) 'a difficult subject in a meaningful and visually interesting manner.'

Dave Greer was awarded first prize in the adult category with his entry, 'Black Isle Harvest Time'. Joint second were 'Stella Cherries' and 'Hung out to Dry', both photographs by Sheila Maher, and 'Oil Seed Rape in the Evening Sun' by Martin Sherring. In the child category, Ellen Hogg gained first prize with her entry, 'Potatoes in Bloom', and second with 'Fruit of the Sea'.

Slides of all entries into the competition will be shown on a monitor alongside the CCT stall at the indoor market at Findon Hall on Saturday September 18th.



This novel public transport system has been operating in the Ferintosh Community Council area now for the past seven weeks. Although there are over seven months to go in this pilot project, we thought we'd capture the initial experiences of those who have tried it out. As you'll read below, not everything has been perfect but the enthusiasm to make this pilot successful is palpable.

A personal story

"Travellers Joy - my experience of using the Ferintosh Community Bus"

My background to Bus travel:

To set the scene - I used to be a regular bus user but personal circumstances as well as Covid 19 meant that I had to abandon bus usage and take my car.

I loved the bus - in spite of the occasional downsides at that time such as the commuter service being removed from the village and relocated to a stop on the slip road to the A9 without shelter in the teeth of rain snow and wind, occasional bus breakdowns etc. The social aspect and camaraderie more than made up for the glitches. I made new friends from the village that I would otherwise not have met - an added bonus!

I was therefore delighted to be able to take a trial journey on the Ferintosh Community Bus (thereafter FCB) a couple of weeks ago and thought I'd relate my experience to you all, especially if you weren't sure about taking this kind of journey for the first time!

I live in a rural part of the Ferintosh Community Council area, and in the past have had to either take the car to Culbokie or can sometimes stand at the side of the B9169 for a connecting bus

coming to and from Cromarty to get to Inverness using public transport.

For me, to now be collected and delivered to my doorstep by the Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB) is a complete luxury!

My FCB experience began with consulting the Stagecoach timetable, which I believe each household in the FCC area should have had delivered to them.

(The FCB collects you from your house and takes you to Tore Service Station to connect with a Stagecoach bus going North or South.)

So, the first thing you need to do is decide which service bus you want to connect with at Tore, then work backwards, as it were, with your travel plan. The first time you do this is, as with many things, the most difficult. Figure out how long it might take from your house to Tore (in my case 20 minutes allowed a 5minute leeway).

Having put together the travel plan, phone CSI Ross-shire to book your journey (s) on the FCB. You'll find their two contact numbers on the leaflet.

I guess the biggest perceived downside to this is that one needs to book at least the day before, but REALLY? What's so hard about that? We have all had to make much more dramatic changes to our lives in the pandemic, thinking ahead isn't so onerous - a new habit is perhaps the way to look at it.

My first attempt at phone booking was a response by answering machine - I did leave a message and it was responded to within an hour, but do check the opening times of CSI Ross-shire please.

The day of my maiden voyage, the bus and driver (Mike) turned up at the agreed time and we set off for Tore. On arrival at Tore service station, Mike parked the bus and consulted an App to ascertain the arrival time of the connecting bus. My fellow passenger that day had time enough to pop into the cafe there and get a takeaway coffee while I stayed on the FCB.

The service bus arrived and we transferred from one bus to the other. No being left to the vagaries of the Highland weather by FCB!

Ticketing was dealt with by FCB and showing one's onward ticket to the next bus driver was all that was required, then onward to Inverness - my destination of choice.

The return journey was equally easy and pleasant. No rushing at all in any direction. Kindness and consideration was the order of the day.

In conclusion of this travelogue (lengthier than I intended), I'd very much like to encourage folk to try this service. It is such a joy to be collected from home and vice versa. We are so privileged to be a pilot for this kind of travel. Phase 2 with an electric vehicle should begin around the end of September.

To the folk who are unsure, haven't thought about the day they may not be allowed/able to drive, or are quite simply against such an idea - I say to you all PLEASE GIVE IT A TRY!

When I was small - we were all young once - my parents encouraged me to try new foods and experiences. I was constantly surprised that most were actually quite pleasant, even though I thought I'd really dislike them!

Alison Lowe, Community Councillor"

And some brief comments:

"Excellent initiative that will make a real difference to those living off grid."

"The main lesson I took from my trip to Inverness on the community bus was that the A9 buses pulling in to Tore service station may be heading either south to Inverness or north to Tain and as they may not always be running exactly to the timetable it is essential to check a bus's destination before boarding. When two buses pulled in one behind the other at about the time an Inverness bus was due I got on the first one without thinking, realised when the buses were fortunately halted by traffic at the roundabout that it was heading for Tain, and thanks to the considerateness of both drivers was able to change buses and continue my journey to Inverness and avoid what could have been considerable inconvenience".

"I have, so far, only used the bus once but I found it to be extremely easy to use and the bus driver very friendly and helpful"

"The service is always on time, reliable and easy to book the day before".

For more information please contact Bruce Morrison at ferintoshcc30@gmail.com or 01349 877127

Service No 22 Inverness - Collieston Monday to Friday

Service Number	136	138	139	131A	131A	131	131	130
Inverness Bus	07:27	07:27	07:28	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31
Collieston	08:15	08:15	08:16	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19

Service No 22 Collieston - Inverness Monday to Friday

Service Number	130	131	131	131	131	131	131	130
Inverness Bus	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31	07:31
Collieston	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19	08:19

And a BONUS for the FCC area Community
During the pilot (estimated Autumn 2021) a small 5 seater (plus wheelchair place) electric vehicle will replace the diesel Sprinter (16 seater). By then we are planning to have volunteer drivers trained, registered, PVG checked and insured to enable the FCC to be available through late afternoon into night time and also on Sundays thus providing essentially a 24/7 service (the modest fares for these volunteer services have not yet been decided). So for 7 days a week, FCC area residents will have access to all Stagecoach's A9 services at Tore Service Station. For example, for the first time, residents will be able to access evening events and activities in Inverness.

Is the FCB Pilot just to link with A9 bus services?
Initially, yes that is the plan and the existing 21 service through the FCC area to Comarty and Dingwall remains as a fixed route service. If the pilot goes well, a Phase 2 trial of 'demand responsive' services for journeys between Comarty and Dingwall will be considered but only after extensive consultation.

Who is putting this pilot together?
A partnership of HIRANS, Stagecoach, The Highland Council, CSI Ross-shire and Ferintosh Community Council (supported by Culbokie Community Trust) has assembled this pilot.

Who can I contact for more information?
Your local community councillor for this pilot is Bruce Morrison who you can contact on **01349 877 127** or at ferintoshcc30@gmail.com





From 28th June 2021

Operator: Stagecoach Highland

Service available in the Ferintosh Community Council area, Monday to Friday, between the hours of: 09.30 to 16.15

For bookings phone: **07519 722 456 / 07519 772 376**

THE DOG POO FAIRY DOES NOT EXIST!

What does exist, however, is a wonderful team of volunteers who work tirelessly to monitor, empty and maintain the six dog poo bins in Culbokie and Glascairn Woods.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to the attention of the Culbokie Community Trust (CCT) and Fertinosh Community Council (FCC) that entrances to our beautiful woods are becoming littered with dog mess.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, but also dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause Toxocariasis - a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in some cases, blindness and seizures.

Whilst most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets, or think it is acceptable to hang dog poo bags from trees!

We would like to urge everyone to take pride in where we live and act responsibly as dog owners to ensure we eradicate this problem. Please always pick up after your dog and use the dog poo bins that are provided.



Culbokie Church Centre activities

As the Covid restrictions have eased, we've been gradually resuming activities in the Culbokie Church Centre. It's been great to meet together for the Sunday morning service, and to sing, albeit still wearing face masks. We and our linked church in Cromarty bought some live-streaming equipment earlier in the year, and we now have a blended approach on Sunday mornings – with Terry present at one of the churches and live-streaming to the other church. The services are also still available online at www.cruparish.online.church and via Facebook (and on Youtube afterwards). Currently the service is continuing at 11am, as we work out what our 'new normal' will be going forward. We're also resuming our mid-week bible study after a break over the summer, though this will continue to be on Zoom for the time being.

The Church Café opened its doors again in August, after 17 long months. It's held at the usual time of 1.30-3.45pm on Tuesday afternoons. We're using the main church room, as well as the kitchen and middle, to provide more space, and operating table service. It's an ideal opportunity to meet old friends, and make new ones, over a cuppa and a sweet treat. There will be a special Macmillan Fundraiser on Tuesday 21st September from the earlier time of 12 noon, with soup as well as delicious home bakes available.

The Senior Citizen's Friendship Group has also resumed, meeting 2-4pm on the first Monday of the month until the end of the year: 4th October,

1st November, 6th December. Contact Maureen Rose on 877435 for further information.

And last but not least, the Walking Group is getting back into their stride on Thursday mornings, meeting at 10am outside the Church Centre.

If you want to know more about the Culbokie Church Centre and what's going on, please check out our website www.culbokiechurchcentre.org and facebook, or contact Rev. Terry Burns on 877452 or email TBurns@churchofscotland.org.uk.

**CULBOKIE
CHURCH CENTRE CAFE
OPEN EVERY TUESDAY
1-30 to 3.45 pm
Delicious selection of
Home Baking, Fairtrade Tea
and Coffee, Hot Chocolate**




Cash transactions only

A warm welcome extended to all

The Church is the Church only when it exists for others—not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.

Just as important, having a way to reach out to the local community and to bring new sheep into the Kingdom of God should be something each and every church leader should keep high on their agenda.

And those who are willing to do whatever work is necessary to see the Church blessed, whole, and thriving are the ones to whom true honor is due.

Various attractions at the CCT Stall

There will be lots on offer at the CCT stall at monthly indoor markets at Findon Hall over the next few months. Samples of the new **2022 Black Isle Calendars** and packs of **Christmas cards** of seasonal Highland scenes will be displayed on the stall at the monthly Saturday indoor markets, the first being on Saturday September 18th. Come and browse or place your order at the stall or, from October, you can order online via the CCT website.

To celebrate the completion of **Culbokie Lockdown Quilt**, there will also be on sale copies of a fascinating booklet on the background to the making of the quilt, and sections on each patch maker's experience of lockdown in Summer 2020.

Adjacent to our stall will be a **digital display** of all the entries into this year's Black Isle Photo Competition.

Culbokie Community Trust

Christmas Cards



Place your order now for CCT

Christmas cards

Individual cards £1 each

Pack of 5 (same design) £4

Sold in aid of Culbokie Green



www.culbokiect.org

CHAIR REPORT

AUGUST 2021

Since taking over the role of Chair in May I am glad to see that thankfully progress is being made and we have now started to open things up again. People are able to get together and meet up with family which has been something we have all missed over the last year. Dealing with a pandemic has certainly given us all a lot to think about, and perhaps ponder on the need to do things differently.

We have had several volunteers wishing to continue helping our community, and we now have a dedicated Ferintosh volunteer group.

We have 2 new members of FCC who kindly put themselves forward to be co-opted members, so FCC continues to support residents throughout the area. FCC has continued to meet regularly online, and discuss items of interest or concern to residents, and through our regular meetings we have had updates on some of the projects underway in our patch.

The pilot for the Ferintosh Community Bus continues very successfully. There is an article dedicated to a journey in this edition, so I shall let you enjoy reading about that. As someone who has no regular bus services to our area it is great to be able to arrange a pickup from your door and a return drop off at your door. I am looking forward to my trip on the bus with my granddaughter, and I understand that there are several older people in my area looking forward to a trip into Inverness via the FCB as well.

At a recent meeting Culbokie Community Trust gave us an update on the progress of their Active travel plans. They have now moved onto the next stage of the process and we are interested to see the progress in the months ahead.

I was invited to go and look at all the lovely work done during lockdown on the Quilt Squares which are now displayed in Findon Hall. These have been done by residents and give us an idea of how people felt during the lockdown, and their impressions of how they dealt with the very difficult situations which happened whilst not being able to get out and share these as we would normally do. I understand that a leaflet with details of each square will be produced. These are beautifully created and

something which I would encourage everyone to go and look at once we are able to visit halls again.

A recent Black Isle Festival called Think Health Think Nature was held and encouraged us all to take time out and enjoy the beautiful walks and environment in which we live. There were guided walks and tours around our villages giving details of local landmarks and a history of the area. Thanks to those involved in organising this and I am sure we will see further Festivals in the future.

FCC has a plea for residents to become Pothole volunteers. We are currently involved in a pilot scheme with Highland Council Roads which will help identify and resolve potholes on our worst affected roads. If you would like to know more about this and get involved with the challenge of using modern technology to report these, please let Bruce know via email and he can give you the details of how you can help in this exciting pilot.

Eilidh is still at the Editor's desk for the Noticeboard and she keeps us informed of all that is happening in the area, and along with Becky she continues to post items on our Facebook page. Our website also has lots of information so please do have a look at this. You can catch up with the minutes of any meetings if you have missed these by email.

We are always looking for new email contacts so if you know of a neighbour or friend who is yet to register to receive information from us via email, please do let Bruce know and he will be happy to arrange this. Bruce is available on ferintoshcc30@gmail.com

Wishing you all a continued safe and well summer, what may be left of it, and enjoy the nicer weather as you can

Karen
Chair FCC