**Food and Growing Miscellany and Markets News**

**Food and Growing - Julie Gibson**

\* Apple press attendance at markets and BIG going/gone well. Thanks go to those who volunteered. Anne can tell us how well it was used end of Sept NK market, Culbokie was quiet (£5 donations), at BIG it seemed to be kept busy (£50 donations).

\* We haven’t had a F&G meeting for a year (I think !) so aiming to have one in November to ‘catch up’ …and sort out what we’ll be doing re seed potato sales next spring.

Additional notes for your AGM report, Julian.

\* Successful seed potato ‘event’ in March, once again (because of Covid risks in a large group) this took the form of a network of ‘tattie hosts’ spread across the Black Isle and Inverness. And through sales at local outdoor markets in March. Thanks to all in the ‘team’ who helped make the whole event work so well.

\* We tried to restart Grow North workshops in the Spring but there was a limited sign up. Only 1 workshop took place. Then illness prevented any workshops being planned for autumn.

**Apple pressing and North Kessock market - Anne Thomas**

The apple pressing in North Kessock was slow to start with but picked up. I took a box of apples to get started on but we ran out, so I went back home to get some more and just after we started two people turned up with quite large volumes. The refreshments were being done by the cubs/ brownies, and the children really enjoyed helping with adult supervision as did children of one of the people who brought apples. Our new volunteer was enthusiastic. We had £13.15 in donations. I'm wondering if I can donate the van hire in lieu of donation for using it as I needed to do this due to having no tow bar. It was rather more of a hassle getting things loaded and secure than the trailer as the trailer is now very tight and everything has its place, but is an option.

NK Market

The new hall committee is being much stricter about payment than the previous one and want payment within 7 days of an event. There was a problem with the payment system when they started which didn't help and they were also concerned about insurance for outside stalls just when we had reached a compromise and brought the two markets together again. They also thought having anyone from NKTOP involved could be regarded as sub-letting which they've specifically ruled out.

NKTOP have organised a large open air Christmas Market on the afternoon of the November market.

Sylvie has had some difficult negotiation to do and finding N Kessock community politics and grumpiness a challenge. We have tried to organise a meeting with Hall Committee reps, Sylvie, Martin and I but failed. She is going to be away for 3 weeks from Monday as they haven't been able to travel to France due to the dog being ill but it has recently died. I could therefore do with some more help with the market.

**Pasteuriser - Martin Sherring**

I can add some info about the **pasteuriser**. It's been used by 5 people so far this year, one of them twice. Three of those joined TBI to get free use of the pasteuriser.

**Various - Sheila Currie**

Cromarty Market becoming more stable.  Lauren being proactive re stalls and marketing.  Don't know about income/outgoings, but have reassured her that profit is not main goal. Numbers of punters rising again. Ongoing non-helpfulness (rather than unhelpful) from one member of Vic Hall Cttee, but improving.  Some concerns re insurance for priced catering being a massive cost/issue for us - possible way round to offer teas/coffees for free but ask for donations?  Apple Press here tomorrow, hope all goes well.

As I will not be a trustee, I had assumed I would stop being one of the Newsletter editors.  But that MAY be feasible.  I will decide in due course, but will ask for a replacement in the next newsletter anyway.   I have been trying to work out how to configure Mailchimp emails to work properly on mobile phones, but the Mailchimp help makes no sense to me.

I have been thinking, with my Cromarty Development Trust hat on, about a Community Cider Venture, which wouldn't be a TBI thing, but would align well.  So many apples going to waste!

Also with CDT, we are looking into EV chargepoints.