



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

 @gogolspie

 01408 634033

 gogolspie.co.uk

FOUNTAIN ROAD HALL

Sub group of Go Golspie

The Go Golspie Development Trust have recently added the purchase of the Fountain Road Hall to their list of successful projects and the group are very keen to share this positive news with the community. Go Golspie was established in 2015 and since its inception it has focussed on community development. Following the publication of their own Golspie Community Plan in 2016 and the Community Planning partnership plan of 2017 the matter that was most pressing in the community was the lack of and the affordability of transport. This was the catalyst that led the Trust to fund raise for and purchase a community bus.



The bus came into service in January 2019 and since then it has carried in excess of 600 passengers on over 80 trips up to the first Lockdown in March 2020. Since then, it has been used to deliver hot meals working in partnership with the Trawler Fish and Chip shop in the village. Since April of 2020 the bus has delivered over 1200 hot meals to self-isolating and shielding people in the community not only providing a good meal but also relieving loneliness with a friendly face. Go Golspie also recognised that the bus was not the best means



of transport for taking folk with limited mobility to health appointments etc. So, they have now added an electric car to the service (with partial funding from the Climate Change Action Fund) that they

provide and this is already being used for health appointments as far afield as Raigmore, making getting to appointments so much easier for those who cannot use public transport.

(cont'd on page 2)

Help us to help the community.

Go Golspie continue to receive project related monies but have been sadly affected by a lack of fundraising to support with our day to day running costs during the pandemic.

To this end Go Golspie are now listed as an official charity on Amazon Smile, so if you shop on Amazon and make your purchases using Amazon Smile, you can select Go Golspie as your nominated charity. Thereafter Amazon will

donate a small percentage of any purchase you do make, this goes directly to Go Golspie at no cost to you.

You can do this by going to: www.smile.amazon.co.uk

Click 'Get Started' and then search for 'Go Golspie' as your nominated charity.

(cont'd from page 1)

The purchase of the Fountain Road Hall after over a year of discussion and negotiating with the Church of Scotland is the latest acquisition for the trust and the work of the subgroup that was established to take this forward (Marion Sutherland, Jake Chambers, Amanda Macdonald, Valerie Pryde and Anne and Allan Barclay) has been fantastic. Working with SKS Scotland and thanks to funding from the Scottish Land Fund the hall was purchased on the 15th of February. The hall will now become a real focus for events from Weddings to Funerals and it will be open for music events and use by local groups such as the Brownies and any others who need a venue to continue their activities. Crucial to Go Golspie is

that the hall will be as inclusive and accessible as possible and we look forward to when we can open it up as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow. In the meantime, some repairs and a spot of redecorating is the order of the day.

The other big acquisition for the trust is the lease of the YMCA building that was until recently being used as the Youth Centre by the Golspie Youth Action Project. With the lockdown the building has continued to deteriorate having suffered years of neglect by the Local Authority so it is great that a 50-year lease of the building has been agreed and Go Golspie will take over the building with planning permission already submitted to replace the flat roof at the rear of the building. With the help of Funding from the Town Centre Fund and

Gordonbush Wind Farm work will commence early in spring to fully restore the building and make sure that the youth of the community have somewhere to meet. As well as a youth centre the building will also be available for other groups to use and it is hoped that the front hall will be used for events such as craft fayres and farmers markets going forward. The importance of this building cannot be overstated given its prominent position on the Main Street.



FISH & CHIP DELIVERIES

The Fish and chip deliveries have continued throughout the winter months, we had hoped to cap this at 30 orders each week but owing to Richard and Peter being a pair of softies who cant say No, we are now at 42 deliveries and this number appears to increase every week. We have received funding and donations which helps make

this service possible. Keegan and Donnie help with the deliveries every Friday as soon as they get out of school, their help is invaluable and the residents love meeting them on the doorstep for a chat. Keegan has also just received an award as "Young Volunteer of The Year" which is a fantastic achievement for him. Very well done. (BBC

Scotland in November and the P&J in December).

We hope to advertise dates after 26th April once Nicola Sturgeon confirms we can have a bit more freedom. Please get in touch to get your name on the passenger list

Watch this space!!

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

A total of 8 tours were completed in the lead up to Christmas taking 32 passengers for days out. These tours were supported by funding from Foundation Scotland and Café stops included The River Bothy at Berriedale, The Pier, Lairg, The Carnegie Hall Café, Portmahomack and The Platform 1864 in Tain. All were very good to those attending and those who have attended so far have

very much enjoyed their day out. Trips generally consisted of a soup and sandwich lunch, a leisurely drive around the countryside in the minibus and a number of stops for shopping too. We hope to continue with lots more tours once lockdown eases and the weather improves, we would envisage this will not begin to late April 2021 but if you are a senior resident of Golspie and would like a day out

on the minibus, please get in touch. Priority will be given where possible to elderly persons who are living on their own. We have also been thinking a day out for the boys, so a men only trip is being looked at too. If you are interested in joining one of the trips later in April or May please ring the Go Golspie office on 01408 634033 to book a place.

UPDATE ON OUR TOURISM WORK FOR GOLSPIE

The Golspie 2030 Tourism Strategy was commissioned by Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE), with its objective being to enable; "Go Golspie Development Trust and the wider community of Golspie to strategically plan tourism development in the village. It will allow the community to better utilise the opportunities currently provided by tourism. It is the intention that this piece of work will outline a route for Go Golspie and other organisations to create new income streams as well as enhancing footfall for the wider business community in the village."

Download the document from the website below:

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

NEW SIGNS FOR GOLSPIE



One of the issues that has been highlighted as a result of our discussions around tourism in and around the area is a lack of signage to point out the attractions that are available to visitors and

Go Golspie are delighted to have been awarded project funding for new signposts for the village thanks to the Highland Council Town Centre

Regeneration Fund, GG tourism sub group have been working hard on this since the beginning of the year and we are delighted that orders have now been placed and the signs for the village are green and gold and the outlying signs for the nature reserve are blue, look out for them in the coming months.

We have also been working in partnership with Nature Scot over Blue signs for the Littleferry National Nature Reserve and for highlighting our cycle network in partnership with the Golspie Bothy cycle group.



WEBSITE UPGRADE

GG have been awarded funding from HIE to develop a new website to highlight the village and the surrounding area. We are really excited about this project and we are sure that it will show the area to its best advantage.

As part of the website we are having some Drone work carried out to showcase the village and local attractions thanks to funding from the Kilbraur Windfarm community benefit fund.

All this work has come from our recently published Tourism Strategy which was completed for us by SKS Scotland and for those of you who might like to read the report please visit the Go Golspie website:

www.gogolspie.co.uk

THE WAY FORWARD

Go Golspie are delighted with all the funding we have received to pursue our projects and we would like to say a huge thankyou to our various funders, however we are concerned about our core responsibilities as we move out of lockdown.

With all the of the work of the group so far being carried out by the volunteer members of the board

and with so many new projects on the go we are now in a position where we need to employ a development manager to oversee the projects and to continue to look for further areas to develop the village for the good of the community. So, it is our aim over the next few months to secure funding for a manager and to cover our core costs to free us

up to ensure that Golspie continues to be a place to live, grow and thrive.

Finally, we are always looking for new members to add to the 220 who are already signed up, it is free and easy to join us and application forms are available from any of the trustees.

We issued **72** children with baking and play activities during lockdown



1 New electric car funded by Climate Change Action Fund to help transport people to hospital appointments



8 people attended a Mindfulness course online provided by the Highland Mindfulness group on behalf of GG



39 children took part in our GG Art Competition



Go Golspie currently have **220** members



1200 hot meals delivered since April 2020 as part of the pandemic response



Community bus carried **600** passengers on **80** trips before Lockdown last year



110 art pads and pens were purchased for all pre school children to primary 7

