

SCOTTISH LEADER CONFERENCE



DELIVERING TOGETHER
10-12 MARCH 2016, AVIEMORE

#ScotLEADER16





Front Cover (Left to right):
Outer Hebrides/North Harris Trust
Cairngorms/Angus Finlay
Forth Valley and Lomond/Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER

FOREWORD

GILLIAN MCDONALD

Head of Delivery, Food, Drink
and Rural Communities Division,
Scottish Government

Both Maggie and I would like to welcome you to the LEADER conference. The conference marks a new and exciting phase of the 2014-2020 LEADER programme.

We are moving from development into delivery: Local Development Strategies have been signed off; Local Action Groups are launching; and Expressions of Interest are being received from communities and groups. We trust that you'll find this conference a useful experience, be able to network, learn from others and find out about local and national priorities.

A fifth of Scotland's population live in rural areas. That's approximately one million people scattered in towns and villages that are surrounded by an extraordinary variety of landscapes. Whether situated by water, soil, stone or wood this cohort of people deliver much to Scotland's prosperity and standing. There are multiple challenges with living in these rural environments and also some great benefits.

MAGGIE GORDON

Director of Scottish Rural Action

Working together we want to bring the opportunities of LEADER to our rural areas and do this in a way that maximises the benefits for our local communities. This conference is part of that process and we are both delighted to be part of it.

To aid us all on our LEADER journey we also have the support of the Scottish Rural Network. They are key in supporting networking opportunities, such as this conference. They are also charged with helping us to better connect and cooperate. The new monthly LEADER newsletter is a step in our journey and we would encourage you to use it to share your news and information with a wide audience.

We trust that you'll enjoy the conference, make some new contacts and share your experience of what works with those around you.

MAGGIE GORDON

Director of Scottish Rural Action



Maggie Gordon was elected as a director of Scottish Rural Action (SRA), the organisation charged with delivering the Scottish Rural Parliament, almost a year ago. Before that she served as a co-opted director for SRA.

From 2007 until 2013, Maggie was involved with the LEADER LAG for Dumfries and Galloway, representing the agricultural community as a LAG member and was elected latterly as Chair.

Maggie farms in Dumfries and Galloway with her husband, Bob. Maggie is quite geeky about baking bread and sings with a local community choir.

GILLIAN MCDONALD

Head of Delivery, Food, Drink and Rural Communities Division, Scottish Government



Gillian recently moved to the LEADER team. She has years of policy, strategy and delivery experience across the Scottish Government as well as background in the workings of the European Commission negotiations related to rural affairs generally.

Prior to joining the Civil Service, Gillian worked for a Regional Development Agency in Inward Investment. She has also worked for various private sector foreign-owned companies.

In her spare time Gillian loves hillwalking, although there's not much opportunity for hillwalking at the moment as she has two young children.

AGENDA

THURSDAY 10 MARCH

16:00-18:30

Registration, marketplace and networking, Osprey Arena

19:00

Dinner, Osprey Arena

FRIDAY 11 MARCH

From 8:30

Registration, marketplace and networking, Osprey Arena

9:30

Session 1: Welcome, films and speeches, Auditorium

- Short film on inspiring LEADER projects
- Introduction from Chairperson: Maggie Gordon, Director of Scottish Rural Action
- Welcome from host area: Roger Clegg, Cairngorms Local Development Strategy (LDS) Chair
- Video address from Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
- The Successes and Challenges of LEADER: Peter Sunderland, Forth Valley and Lomond LDS Chair

10:20

Refreshments, marketplace and networking Osprey Arena

11:00

Session 2: Morning workshops, various locations*

12:30

Networking lunch, Osprey Arena

14:15

Session 3: Afternoon workshops, various locations*

15:45

Session 4: Wrap up, reflection and close

- Gillian McDonald, Scottish Government
- Maggie Gordon, Director of Scottish Rural Action
- Roger Clegg, Cairngorms LDS Chair

16:15

Marketplace and networking, Osprey Arena

19:00

Dinner and ceilidh, Osprey Arena

* Seven workshops will be run in parallel:

- Workshop 1: Enterprise
- Workshop 2: Farm diversification
- Workshop 3: Building community capacity
- Workshop 4: Youth initiatives
- Workshop 5: The value of cooperation
- Workshop 6: Commissioning of projects by Local Action Groups
- Workshop 7: Communication

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

9:00-13:30

The Cooperation Café, Peregrine Suite

or

Delegates can choose from three project visits:

- Project visit 1: Kirkhill Community Centre and Upper Reelig Log Building
- Project visit 2: Nethy Bridge Community Centre and the Woodlands Project and Castle Roy
- Project visit 3: Kingussie Shinty Club and Story of Kingussie

Details about each of the workshops, the project visits and the Cooperation Café can be found on pages 08-22.

FRIDAY MORNING SPEAKERS

ROGER CLEGG,
CAIRNGORMS LDS CHAIR



Roger Clegg is a member of Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council, the Convenor of the Association of Cairngorm Communities and Chairman of the Cairngorms Local Action Group.

In these roles he has become aware of many of the issues which are important to rural communities and he sees the LEADER aim of stimulating community-led local development as an important way of helping people develop the confidence to address these issues and strengthen both the local and wider communities.

Following a career in teaching he is a School Governor as well as being involved in a range of other charitable organisations.

RICHARD LOCHHEAD,
CABINET SECRETARY FOR
RURAL AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
THE ENVIRONMENT



Richard Lochhead was born in 1969 and raised in Paisley. He attended Williamwood High School in Clarkston and Glasgow College of Commerce, where he gained an HNC in Business Studies, and the University of Stirling where he graduated with a BA (Hons) in Political Studies.

His first job was with the South of Scotland Electricity Board and other previous posts include Office Manager for Alex Salmond MP.

He joined the Scottish National Party while still at school in the early 1980s. Immediately prior to his election to the Scottish Parliament in 1999, he worked as an Economic Development Officer for Dundee City Council.

In 1999, Richard was elected to the Scottish Parliament as a North East MSP. He stood down from his regional seat to fight and win the Moray constituency by-election in April 2006.

He was SNP Spokesperson on Environment, Energy, Rural Affairs and Fishing. He was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment in May 2007.

Mr Lochhead lives in Elgin with his wife and two sons. He enjoys reading history and fiction, cycling, and cinema.

FRIDAY MORNING SPEAKERS

PETER SUNDERLAND, FORTH
VALLEY AND LOMOND LDS CHAIR



Peter Sunderland's fascination with the rural economy came after a life as a Chartered Surveyor and a Director in a retail bank.

The shop was closing in the village he had just moved to and he joined a very determined group who wanted to save it. With the help of LEADER funding they saved the shop and it is still open today, almost 20 years later.

He continues as Chair of the Shop Board and holds the title of Sub Postmaster, but doesn't serve! He chairs the local traders association and the Local Action Group. He combines these volunteer roles along with that of MD of Gartmore House and Chair of the UK Contact Centre Association.

WORKSHOP 1: ENTERPRISE

JACKIE BRIERTON MBE



Workshop summary

All Local Development Strategies have identified enterprise as a key priority, with Local Action Groups and Fisheries Local Action Groups focusing on jobs and growth with a particular emphasis on micro-enterprises.

This workshop explores the potential for LEADER to support enterprise with Local Development Strategy partners exchanging views on the way forward.

Workshop speaker

Jackie Brierton MBE

Jackie is Chair of the Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Local Action Group. She is also Enterprise Manager for GrowBiz - a community-based enterprise support organisation in rural Perthshire. Jackie is also Founder and Vice-Chair of Women's Enterprise Scotland CIC, and Chair of Community Enterprise Ltd. She has more than 30 years' experience in business, enterprise and policy development.

As an adviser to the DTi's Small Business Service, Jackie worked with the policy unit for women's enterprise and ethnic minority business from 2002-2005, and developed the UK Government's 'Strategic Framework for Women's Enterprise' which was published in 2003. She also managed two centres of enterprise expertise for young people and women in the West Midlands between 2007 and 2010.

In her spare time, Jackie is a season ticket holder at St Johnstone FC and enjoys walking her two rescue dogs in the beautiful Perthshire hills.

WORKSHOP 2: FARM DIVERSIFICATION

CHRIS SAVAGE



Workshop summary

All Local Development Strategies have identified enterprise as a key priority, with Local Action Groups and Fisheries Local Action Groups focusing on jobs and growth with a particular emphasis on micro-enterprises.

This workshop explores farm diversification, a particular aspect of enterprise that is new for most Local Development Strategies in this programming period.

Workshop speaker

Chris Savage

Chris Savage has chaired the Ayrshire Local Action Group since its inception in 2008 and brings strong leadership and innovative thinking to the Local Action Group, coupled with a real belief in the LEADER approach to tackling rural issues.

Chris studied Agriculture, Farm Management & Surveying and has a Masters in Business Management from Strathclyde Graduate Business School.

Chris spent 13 years working as a Rural Development Consultant with Scottish Agricultural College working on international assignments in Uzbekistan, China, Poland and Egypt looking at many aspects of rural development.

Chris works for the Kennedy family, former owners of Culzean Castle, managing the family's land and property interests. The portfolio includes farming, forestry, let property, hunting, fishing and renewable energy interests circa 10,000 acres and is a LEAF (Linking Environment & Farming) demonstration farm.

WORKSHOP 3: BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

ROGER MOORS



Workshop summary

This will be a very practical workshop that examines the key principals involved in building community capacity.

Ensuring communities have the ability not only to influence local decisions, but enduring capacity to deliver solutions in response to identified need over the longer term is fundamental to the success of any initiative.

This is one of the reasons why Local Development Strategy areas can use their 'animation' budget towards:

- Exchanges with stakeholders, community groups and potential project promoters to generate ideas and build trust and confidence
- Support for community organisations and the creation, or strengthening, of community structures
- Promotion and support for the preparation of projects and applications
- Post-start-up project support

Reflecting upon some of the Scottish Community Development Centre's (SCDC) frameworks and tools, this session will seek to explore and contrast stated best practice with the practicalities and realities of undertaking community projects by hearing from an organisation with a wealth of knowledge and experience. The workshop will seek to develop and leave participants with a list of hints and tips on how best to build the capacity of communities.

Workshop speakers

Roger Moors Chief Development Officer - Social Investment Scotland

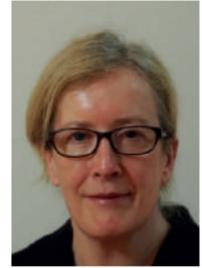
With over 14 years of client banking and private sector roles under his belt, Roger Moors then moved into the third sector. In establishing a number of trading social enterprises in England, he took the relatively rare step of securing investment to establish and develop them from the outset. Those enterprises went on to grow and flourish before he then returned to his interest in finance - this time within the social sector.

Over the last six years, Roger has been helping to secure investment on behalf of other charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations across England. Last year, Roger moved north of the border to take up the position of Chief Development Officer at Social Investment Scotland.

Today, his role extends to widening the understanding of social investment, developing new sources of capital and helping to facilitate access. He's particularly interested in helping to develop more thematic funding and examining ways in which finance can be tailored to the needs of clients.

WORKSHOP 3: BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY (CONTINUED)

JANE CLARK



Jane Clark Business Development Manager - Falkirk Community Trust

Jane is an experienced Project Manager and has worked in public service in Falkirk for over 25 years. She studied Landscape Architecture at Herriot Watt University and is a PRINCE 2 Practitioner and an EFQM Assessor.

Jane has had a key role in developing the Helix, a project that has transformed underutilised land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into a vibrant space for communities and visitors alike.

Jane's key responsibility is the development and monitoring of the Trust's Business Plan. She also ensures the coordination and integration of all Trust strategies that drive and support the Business Plan. Jane is Company Secretary for the Trust and is responsible for managing the administration of the Trust's Boards and their sub-groups. She manages the Business Development Team which works collaboratively with all the Trust's operational areas to ensure that marketing, fundraising, and performance review activities meet business plan objectives, whilst delivering the best possible services to their customers.



WORKSHOP 4: YOUTH INITIATIVES

KAT BATESON



Workshop summary

This workshop is an introduction to how Local Action Groups can engage and involve young people in the LEADER decision making process. Participants will be taken through a basic overview of youth work. As part of this interactive workshop, participants will be asked about the key issues affecting young people across Scotland in the different Local Action Group areas.

Participants will explore innovative ways they can recruit and involve young people in LEADER. This will include looking at examples of Youth Local Action Groups and discussing how social media can be used to engage with young people.

The Highland Youth Convenor will outline a range of benefits that young people can gain from being involved in LEADER such as volunteering hours counting towards accredited awards schemes. This session will also look at a young person's perspective of LEADER and how Local Action Groups can build a successful working relationship with young people.

Workshop speaker

Kat Bateson

Kat Bateson is currently the Youth Convener at Highlife Highland and Highland Council. After working in Student Associations, Kat became the youngest person on the executive committee of the National Union of Students Scotland at 17. Kat worked with colleges and universities until becoming Youth Convener in 2015.

As Youth Convenor, Kat provides a consistent link between Highland Council committees, the Highland Youth Voice, Area Youth Forums and Pupil Councils in secondary schools. In this role, Kat represents the views of young people in policy and decision making and acts as a sounding board for youth issues in the Highlands.

Kat is a member of the Highland Strategic Local Action Group (LAG) and chairs the Equalities Reference Group (advisory group to the LAG).

Kat also works with Apex Scotland in Highland as an acupuncturist and is completing her Honours degree in Literature part-time, specialising in children's and young people's fantasy novels.

WORKSHOP 5: THE VALUE OF COOPERATION

MARY SCHMOLLER



Workshop summary

The main aim of the workshop is to highlight the value of cooperation. The session will also provide an opportunity for Local Action Group and Fisheries Local Action Group members and staff to focus on the Cooperation Café the following day and maximise the experience of both sessions.

Don Morrison from the Scottish Rural Network will talk briefly about the Network before setting the scene for the workshop. Vicky Dunlop will provide a Scottish Government update before the workshop is split into groups for an interactive session.

The workshop will finish with presentations from Ceòlas - a transnational project - followed by a presentation on the Moray Firth Gansey inter-territorial project. This will be an opportunity for participants to hear about each projects' experience of LEADER and the value of cooperation.

Workshop speakers

Mary Schmoller

Ceòlas

Ceòlas is rooted within the Gaelic heartland of South Uist and is a distillation of Hebridean heritage. Over the past 20 years, Ceòlas has been a key driver in the island's social and cultural resurgence. The organisation focuses on performance and education that celebrates and promotes local Gaelic culture and heritage, as well as the strong cultural links of the Gàidhealtachd diaspora.

Ceòlas work to preserve and celebrate the community's unique Gaelic inheritance. The island's rich wealth of music, language and culture remains strong.

Ceòlas is committed to transmitting a vibrant Gaelic culture to future generations. Since its establishment in 1996, Ceòlas has grown from a week-long music and dance school to become one of Scotland's leading Gaelic culture, heritage and arts organisations.

In recognition of Ceòlas' contributions to the community and local economy the organisation has been nominated for a number of prestigious awards:

- MG Alba, Community Project of the Year (Winner 2008)
- MG Alba & Daily Record, Gaelic International Award for Ceòlas' EOST Project (Finalist 2013)
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig & Daily Record, Gaelic as an Economic Asset (Winner 2014)
- MG Alba & Daily Record, Gaelic International Award for our international work and profile (Winner 2015)

WORKSHOP 5: THE VALUE OF COOPERATION (CONTINUED)

KATHRYN LOGAN AND VICKY DUNLOP



Kathryn Logan Moray Firth Gansey

As manager of the Moray Firth Partnership, Kathryn Logan's varied work involves bringing together people, knowledge and resources to make the most of our coasts and seas, now and for future generations.

Environmental and economic considerations are important for clean, healthy and prolific seas and wildlife and thriving local businesses and communities. But cultural and social heritage are also key elements of what makes each area special and different.

Kathryn successfully developed the multi-faceted Moray Firth Gansey project both to preserve an almost vanished and unappreciated aspect of our fishing heritage and to help people of all ages re-engage with their local maritime culture and identity.

This required a combination of creative, business and networking skills, as well as building a fantastic team of project workers and volunteers.

Kathryn enjoyed writing the 'Fishing for Ganseys' book about the project, helping to produce a film, and continues to encourage others to use gansey patterns and skills through modern fashion and designs.

Vicky Dunlop LEADER Programme Delivery Manager

Vicky has recently joined the Scottish Government LEADER team and brings with her a wealth of knowledge from Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) and Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation (FPMC).

Outwith the office Vicky is a keen curler and loves participating on obstacle course races such as Muddy Trails.

Last year she ran Men's Health Survival of the Fittest for the first time . . . and, as you can see, survived!

WORKSHOP 6: COMMISSIONING OF PROJECTS BY LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

ANNE-MICHELLE KETTERIDGE



Workshop summary

Local Action Groups (LAGs) are strategic bodies in their local area, tasked first with producing a Local Development Strategy and now implementing them. While these Local Development Strategies will have gone through an extensive process of identifying local needs and possible solutions, there may be instances where there is no obvious local organisation to implement a particular solution, or other reasons why an intervention might not happen unless the LAG itself instigates the activity.

In these instances it may be appropriate for the LAG to follow the example of LAGs based elsewhere in Europe and to lead on a project to deliver a particular solution. In most instances this will involve the LAG commissioning a project or a particular piece of work, which takes the LAG from being a reactive grant funder to a more proactive strategic body.

In this workshop, Anne-Michelle Ketteridge and Lynn Hamilton will explore some examples of LAG commissioned projects which Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER LAG have undertaken – to give examples of when a LAG might decide to take on a commissioning role, the benefits of doing so and also ideas of the type of LAG commissioning that can be most effective, as well as the factors that need to be taken into consideration.

Anne-Michelle Ketteridge brings the perspective of a LAG Coordinator while Lynn Hamilton brings the perspective of a LAG member.

Larry Rosie from the Scottish Government will outline some audit questions in relation to LAG-led projects which LAGs must be aware of.

Attendees will be encouraged to bring summaries of their Local Development Strategies with them to the workshop as time will be put aside to explore possible LAG-led project solutions.

Workshop speakers

Anne-Michelle Ketteridge

Anne-Michelle Ketteridge is the Programme Manager for Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER. With a BA(Hons) in Business Studies and Spanish, and an MSc in Environmental Management, she brings both a business and an environmental perspective to the running of a LEADER programme which she has been doing successfully for two LEADER programmes.

This is complemented by previous social enterprise and community finance experience from her employment with CEIS and Developing Strathclyde Ltd, the latter being the first Community Finance Initiative in Scotland and also her first introduction to European funding.

The principle of the Local Action Group leading on, or 'commissioning', their own projects was adopted from LEADER programmes elsewhere in Europe, and while used for only a small number of projects in Forth Valley and Lomond to date, the LAG expects this more strategic approach to be more evident in the new programme, and is keen to roll this out further.

WORKSHOP 7: COMMUNICATION

CHRISTIAN STORSTEIN



Workshop summary

Local Action Groups can use a variety of channels to communicate with their stakeholders, and to encourage their stakeholders to communicate. This workshop will cover a range of online and offline communications.

The Ayrshire Local Action Group benefits from forward-thinking members who aim to ensure the new 2014-2020 LEADER Programme builds on past programmes. Sarah Hyslop will present how the Ayrshire LAG is developing tools in-house to ensure a consistent, high quality and professional identity is achieved, in a cost-effective, flexible and easy-to-implement manner, which will strengthen the LAG's offline communications.

The workshop will also cover a range of digital communications, including website good practice and social media. There will be two working groups in each workshop which everyone can take part in:

1. Website structure: the Network Support Unit will run a session on structuring websites and Tree Testing – an easy way to carry out user testing on your website structure.
2. Social Media: the Network Support Unit will walk participants through using Twitter and other social media channels – including good practice, how to set up automatic posting across a number of platforms, and exploring new online tools that are available for LAGs and LEADER projects.

Please remember to bring along a smartphone or tablet to take part!

Workshop speakers

Christian Storstein

Christian is head of the Scottish Government's Digital Engagement Team. The team helps civil servants engage with citizens using a range of digital tools and techniques.

Christian has worked for the Scottish Government for 14 years. In that time he has worked on all aspects of digital, including the redesign of the corporate website, developing the Scottish Government's social media presence and managing Saltire, the Scottish Government's intranet. Before the Scottish Government, Christian worked as a journalist.

WORKSHOP 7: COMMUNICATION (CONTINUED)

GILL LAWRIE, SARAH HYSLOP



Gill Lawrie

Gill is part of a farming family from near Arbroath. For many years she has hosted farm visits by schools and other interested groups to explain about farming and food production and the importance of vibrant rural communities.

She has worked with voluntary groups all her life, both as a member of staff and also as Trustee at national level of organisations such as the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). She was also a Board Member of AAVO (Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations).

Gill's skills lie in bringing diverse organisations and communities together in order to overcome 'silo' thinking and working.

Gill was part of the first Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership Programme and was a member of Rural Tayside LEADER LAG for four years. She is currently Interim Chair of Angus LAG. She is a Fellow of the RSA and also of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

Sarah Hyslop

Sarah Hyslop is the Ayrshire LEADER Programme Coordinator and Chair of the LEADER Communications Working Group. Sarah has worked in economic growth and regeneration including rural development for over 15 years and has extensive grant management and community development experience combined with strong partnership working and engagement across the public, private and third sectors.

Sarah works creatively with colleagues, stakeholders and applicants to develop motivating, supportive and constructive relationships. She enjoys working with a diverse range of people to encourage and develop innovative thinking and adopting approaches to tackle rural issues, while exposure to different individuals, places and thoughts motivates and inspires her.

Sarah hopes that participants at the LEADER Conference immerse themselves in the amazing prospects that arise from LEADER investment and encourages everyone to communicate their LEADER involvement, achievements, connections and opportunities across Scotland and beyond via the Scottish Rural Network, LAG websites, Facebook, Twitter and more.

COOPERATION CAFÉ: HOW DO WE COOPERATE AND MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES IN SERVICE OF SCOTLAND?

This half-day session will provide Local Action Group (LAG) and Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) members and staff with the opportunity to explore and develop ideas for cooperation project proposals with colleagues from other areas in Scotland. It will be a very participative session and you will have plenty of space and time to explore your ideas and/or those of others.

A 'cooperation project' can be described as a concrete activity with clearly identified deliverables producing benefits for the LAG areas involved.

The session aims to:

- Strengthen relationships between LAGs
- Share experiences related to the challenges and opportunities associated with collaborative endeavours
- Showcase innovative projects to inspire and catalyse new ideas
- Provide a space where LAGs can begin to design and initiate cooperation projects
- Match potential projects and partnerships

This session is for LAG/FLAG members and staff who have a cooperation project idea they are working on and/or want to connect with others who have project ideas they might be interested in cooperating on.

To ensure good representation from around Scotland, we highly recommend that each Local Development Strategy area sends at least two representatives to the Cooperation Café.

PROJECT VISITS

1. Kirkhill Community Centre and Upper Reelig Log Building



Kirkhill Community Centre

Kirkhill and District Amenities Association received funding from the Highland LEADER 2007-13 Programme to redevelop and extend the Kirkhill Community Centre.

The population of the area had expanded significantly since the Kirkhill Community Centre was originally built. Despite this, the local shop and Post Office closed and the community saw a reduction in local health service provision. Removal and reduction of these important small community services highlighted the importance of the Community Centre as a vital facility for the rural population with the potential to accommodate services that had been withdrawn from the area.

The redeveloped centre provides vital extra space to accommodate activities in a community that has grown by 100% since the centre was first opened in 1987.



Upper Reelig Log Building

Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Trust Woodland Group manages Upper Reelig Community Wood in partnership with the Forestry Commission Scotland. They carry out a variety of woodland management activities, community events, training courses and educational activities. They have a small firewood business and produce a small amount of charcoal and log candles. They also work with several Forest School groups to enable them to use the woodland for their activities.

The Trust was awarded funding from the Highland LEADER 2007-13 Programme to erect a log building. The building provides equipment storage and meeting facilities for the Woodland Group and is a base for other users of the Community Wood such as local schools, Forest Schools and community groups.

PROJECT VISITS

2. Nethy Bridge Community Centre and the Woodlands Project and Castle Roy

Nethy Bridge Community Centre and Woodlands project

Nethy Bridge community were given the green light to go ahead with design and consultation for the proposed restoration of a central area of woodland locally known as 'Birch Wood'.

The project included woodland between Culvardie and the playing fields up to the boundary with the Duack Burn. In the recent past the birch and ancient pine woodland has been planted with Norway spruce which has created a dense impenetrable mass.

The proposal aimed to restore the woodland and create an area accessible to all, which would benefit the local community and visitors alike. An area of land was generously gifted by the Seafeld Estate to enable a small extension to the playing field. Community ownership of this land has enabled improvements to this corner of the playing field and assist the Abernethy Highland Games in developing a successful annual event.

Funding was granted by the Cairngorms National Park Authority, the Scottish Government and the Cairngorms Local Action Group LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Awards for All (Lottery Fund).

Castle Roy



The Castle Roy Charitable Trust is working towards Castle Roy becoming a free visitor attraction with 'all abilities access' and interpretation boards to explain the history and how the castle might have looked in its heyday.

PROJECT VISITS

3. Kingussie Shinty Club and Story of Kingussie

In March 2012, Phase One of the stabilisation works strengthened the tower of Castle Roy which was in serious danger of collapse. The work involved erecting a substantial wooden support to hold up the tower while the foundations were excavated and filled with traditional lime mortar and gravel bags. Then a number of holes were drilled and filled with concrete tubes that expanded into all the 'nooks and crannies' helping to fill the extensive voids underneath and hold the walls together. Phase Two involved pumping over five cubic metres of lime mortar into the numerous large voids under the rest of the walls and unstable stones in the areas around the foundations were secured.

The Trust has steadily raised funds over the past 14 years which has enabled it to remove the trees that were undermining the castle walls, put up stock proof fencing to stop cattle popping stones out of the walls when they scratch themselves and enabled emergency work to secure the only remaining window lintel. It has also prevented the garde-robe area (the WC) from complete collapse.



Kingussie Shinty Club

Kingussie Shinty Club wanted to gain legal ownership of the shinty pitch by purchasing the land.

The club hoped to be able to provide a stable situation for the club to enable them to progress, improve the ground, encourage more spectators, plan for a grandstand and consider other community events that could benefit from the use of the area when in their ownership.

The Shinty Club works with local schools to encourage youth participation, over 100 of those involved are under 25. The club plays an important role in keeping the heritage of shinty alive in Kingussie.

The Cairngorm LAG approved funding of £18,161.15 from the LEADER programme.

PROJECT VISITS

3. Kingussie Shinty Club and Story of Kingussie (continued)



Story of Kingussie

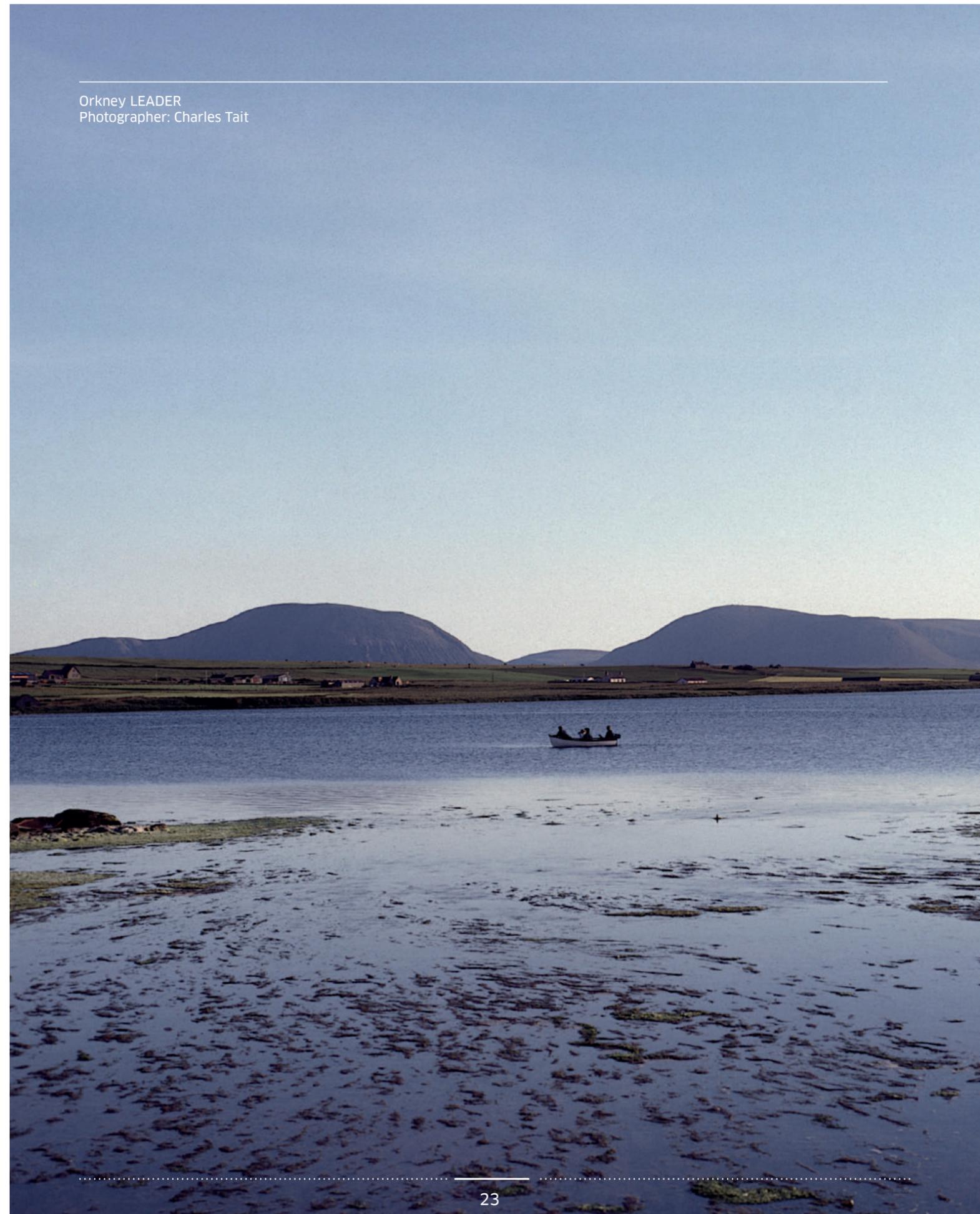
Kingussie is experiencing a transformation with the proposed community buyout of Am Fasgadh and the Business Forum partnership with the Highland Council in redeveloping the Courthouse. It has also been the subject of interest as a planned town, with talks and courses on the architecture of Kingussie being run by the Royal Commission on Ancient Historical Monuments for Scotland. As a consequence, a town trail leaflet has been produced and further trails leaflets are being created.

The Heritage Lottery Fund 'All Our Stories' programme offers a unique one-off opportunity to access funding to tell the story of Kingussie through virtual and physical exhibitions.

The project aims to do this through the following means:

- To gather extant oral and written evidence of the history and life of Kingussie
- To record oral evidence of the history and life of Kingussie
- To analyse and interpret the extant and new stories of Kingussie
- To create a virtual exhibition of the story of Kingussie
- To create a physical exhibition of the story of Kingussie
- To allow for the inclusion of the whole community in the project, including 'socially isolated' individuals

Orkney LEADER
Photographer: Charles Tait



CONTACTS

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**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba