

## New Year with New Horizons

### Happy New Year!

Happy New Year and welcome to the Winter 2016/17 edition of the FACT newsletter, bringing you up to date with the Trust's news and activities over the past few months. If you feel inspired by our work please contact us to see how you can get involved with local community development. Enjoy!

### FACT Fundraising Coffee Morning

FACT held the first Forres Town Hall Coffee Morning of 2017 on Saturday 14 January. There was a good turnout of friendly faces and welcoming chatter with refreshments, stalls, and raffle raising funds for to support the work of the Trust in helping to develop the Forres area. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated and helped on the day.



*FACT Coffee Morning, Forres Town Hall*

### Forres to Become a World Host Destination



The Forres area is only two businesses away from being a World Host recognised destination, could you be the one who means we achieve this accolade? World Host is a customer service training programme that is recognised across the world in delivering excellent customer service skills. Until March 2017 we can offer training on this course at a subsidised rate of £35pp (full price £95). If you are interested in finding out more or attending a session please contact [debbie@forresarea.org](mailto:debbie@forresarea.org) or call 01309 674 388. Courses will be running throughout February and March and each course takes 1 day.

### Walkers are Welcome!

Thanks to the hard work of a group of volunteers Forres area has been awarded *Walkers are Welcome* status. We know the area is a great place for walks and rambles and now we are recognised for it! We have stickers available that you can use to welcome walkers into your business or accommodation and these can be collected from the FACT Office. We will be running a launch event later this year for you to find out more about the award and get involved. This achievement would not have been possible without the support of our partners Moray Speyside Tourism, Forres Footpaths Trust, Moray Council, Forres Community Woodland Trust and the Dava Way Association. For further information about the *Walkers are Welcome* scheme please visit [walkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://walkersarewelcome.org.uk).



*The Forres Stepping Out Walking Group Celebrate the Walkers are Welcome Award*

## Older Person's Project Receives Funding Boost



*George Alexander, Lorna Creswell, Bea Jefferson, John Guthrie & Debbie Herron with the Funding Cheque*

The Auchernack Trust has generously granted £17,300 to FACT for our work with older people in the local area.

Following community consultation over the past year we have been fundraising for a part time worker to undertake a project that helps older people access social activities and events that are on locally. The project came about following the *October 2<sup>nd</sup> Spirit of Community Event in 2014* as people shared their thoughts about how difficult it is to get to clubs and classes in Forres and how going somewhere new and meeting new people can be quite scary.

The funding will pay for a part time worker for 12 months who will set up a befriending programme, promote the variety of activities on offer in the area and help find support groups for people if needed. The funding will also cover volunteer travel expenses and contribute to the next edition of the *Older Person's Directory of Services* in partnership with Forres Area Forum which will be released later this year.

Lorna Creswell, Trustee of the Auchernack Trust said "We are delighted to support this project and put the money from the postie's legacy to good use". Lorna added, "We know that there are a number of people locally who can benefit from the support of a project such as this and we hope it will make all the difference over the next year."

## Revitalising Forres Town Centre

It is well documented that Town Centres up and down the country are facing challenging times and there are lots of ideas about how communities can help make positive differences to help regenerate centre of town areas. Local events, activities and gatherings attract people into Town, increasing footfall and bringing new customers to local businesses – and Forres has a great deal to offer in this regard. Other options for regeneration include providing a diverse range of services and facilities that creates a centre of activity all year round.



*Forres Town Centre Set for New Social Enterprise & Wellbeing Centre?*

With this in mind, FACT has secured funding to explore the possibility of opening a Social Enterprise & Wellbeing facility in Forres Town Centre. If suitable premises can be found, the building will provide a base for FACT, office and desk space for social enterprises and community groups, wellbeing services, and an exhibition to showcase what the local area has to offer. The project development is in the early stages but if it goes ahead it will be another way of bringing people to the Town Centre and helping to increase business opportunities. To find out more please contact [debbie@forresarea.org](mailto:debbie@forresarea.org) or call 01309 674 388.

## Rolling Progress for Future Forres Skate Park

FACT continues to support the Forres Skate Park Initiative, a local working group raising the awareness and interest about a possible future Skate Park Development in Forres.

Using materials and graft donated by construction company BAM Nuttall, the group built a half-pipe ramp last year and showcased it on Culture Day Forres, helping to raise awareness about the project. On Culture Day, more than 100 people showed support for a Skate Park being built in the area and many people enjoyed using the pop-up ramp.



*Pop-Up Half Pipe Ramp on Culture Day Forres*



*Forres Skate Park Initiative Group Visit Tesco to Receive Donation*

Tesco Forres is also backing the campaign and showed support for the project with a recent £500 donation towards future work. Members of the Forres Skate Park Initiative meet with Tesco Store Manager Mark Driver to be presented with the cheque. Mark said, "There is currently nowhere for young people to go in Forres with their skateboards and so they are left to use local car parks. This isn't ideal for anyone; it's not safe for the skaters or the community. We think it is fantastic that FACT is bringing the community together to try to make the idea of a skate park in the area a reality and are delighted that we have been able to support with a donation." To find out more or to get involved in the Skate Park Initiative, please visit [facebook.com/SkateForres](https://facebook.com/SkateForres).

## Forres Online Digital Project Secured for Two Years

The Forres Online digital project run by FACT is going from strength to strength and is secured for the next two years with funding from Scottish Government's Digital Scotland sector and Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund.



The project which was established as a pilot in August 2015 aims to help people benefit from being online and using digital devices such as mobile phones, laptops and tablets. After the 12 month pilot period the project had attracted 519 attendances through free one-to-one drop-ins, afternoon information sessions and volunteer support attendance, and following the funding boost a further 111 attendances have been recorded so far with reach of the project set to increase further.

Project staff now offer support out and about around the area with sessions being held at Forres Job Centre, and at Transition Town Forres in partnership with the Forres Wellbeing Project.

## For FREE Help & Advice with Being Online and Using Mobile Phones, Laptops and Tablets

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2pm – 4pm, FACT Office

Thursdays 10 – 12pm, Forres Job Centre

Fridays 10am – 12pm, FACT Office

Forres Wellbeing Project Sessions & appointments by arrangement, 01309 674388

## Did You Know We Offer Many Community Services?

- **Room Rental** – hire the functional space at 1 Leask Road for your activity group or meeting
- **Admin Support** – we are available to help your community group or organisation with admin TASKS
- **Social Media Support** – we can help you set up and update social media pages
- **Projector & Screen Hire** – hire our projector and screen to use at your local event
- **Third Sector, Community, Health & Wellbeing Promotion** – promote your organisation or event by using our in office noticeboard and online *What's On* features
- **Free Internet Access** – use our broadband internet with your own portable device or use our laptops/tablets at a quiet work space

## Board Member & Staffing Update

Over the past few months there have been some changes to the FACT Board and staffing structure. Sandra MacLennan, Steve Skidmore and Rachel Philp joined the Board at the last AGM, a meeting at which also saw long standing Chair Brian McDonald stand down and Fabio Villani become Chair. More recently, Steve has had to stand down from the Board due to increasing work commitments.

Staff member Frances Powell who was a Local Development Officer for over 3 years with FACT has accepted a new post with Step-by-Step in Elgin. Samantha Fraser was internally appointed to coordinate the Forres Online project with Charlotte Grigg taking over the Administration role.

We sincerely thank Brian, Frances and Steve for their time, support and commitment in helping to develop FACT and the Forres area over the years and extend our best wishes to each for a prosperous future.

### Local Activities, Events & Meeting Dates

**Forres Online, FACT Office**  
**Tuesdays & Thursday 2-4pm**  
**Fridays 10-12pm**

**Youth Entertains Concert, Forres Town Hall**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**FACT Board Meeting, FACT Office**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 7-9pm**

**Joseph Mitchell Lecture, The Tolbooth**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm**  
**Tickets from Forres Gazette Office**

**Forres: a Hotbed of Witches?, The Tolbooth**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm**  
**Tickets from Forres Gazette Office**

**FACT Board Meeting, FACT Office**  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 7-9pm**

### Public Drop in Hours

Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm  
1 Leask Road, Forres, IV36 1SW

### Email

[info@forresarea.org](mailto:info@forresarea.org)

### Website

[www.forresarea.org](http://www.forresarea.org)

### Telephone

01309 674388

### Social Media

[Facebook.com/forresarea](https://www.facebook.com/forresarea)

[Twitter.com/Forres\\_Area](https://twitter.com/Forres_Area)

