

EVANTON COMMUNITY TRUST

Members Newsletter

Spring 2018

Introduction from the Chairperson of Evanton Community Trust, Simon Hindson

Welcome to our Spring 2018 Members newsletter.

For those who don't know me I moved to the village around in 2011 and I am very proud that this fantastic community is home for my family.

I took over the role of Chairperson in October 2017 following our Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank Iain Clark for the fantastic work he did in driving the Trust forward projects in his time as Chairperson. Iain moved out of the village early 2018 and is no longer a director of the Trust, we wish him all the best in his new home.

2017 was a very busy year for the Trust. The two biggest projects were the footpaths down at the shore and a the research project on the history of Kiltearn Old Kirk, information on both of these projects are included in this newsletter. We will be continuing work on these projects in 2018 with new projects being brought forward as well. If you have any ideas about improvements you would like to see around the village please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I firmly believe that Evanton Community Trust, working in partnership with other groups in the village, can make a real difference to our community. Moving forward e hope to be working much more closely with other village groups for the benefit of everyone who lives here.





DIRECTORS OF EVANTON COMMUNITY TRUST

We can have up to 9
Directors, also called
Trustees, of the Trust.

Our Directors at the
moment are:

Simon Hindson

Deidre James

Mandy Macleman

Leslie Logan

Jenny Gray

Michael Macleod

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT WITH THE WORK OF THE TRUST?

It has been a busy period for the Trust over the last year with many projects moving forward apace and others coming online. To help move projects forward we need volunteers!

We have monthly meetings where we plan and update on our projects. We also spend some time on implementing projects and raising funds. At the minute our projects need some time spend on them to ensure we can keep delivering projects to enhance the village.

We are looking for people with a bit of spare time on their hands to help take forward some of our projects. If you would like to help out or would like a bit more information, please get in touch via email (chairman@ect.scot).

OLD KILTEAN KIRK PROJECT

The old Kirk down at the shore is an important and integral part of the history and identity of Evanton. Over the last year a fantastic team of volunteers helped to research the history of the old Kirk and the people of the parish. was carried out last year by Evanton Community Trust in conjunction with ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands). It revealed some fascinating and exciting results with much new information about the history of the old Kirk and its people.

The project began with people exploring the history of the of the old Kirk; and looking at archival and published material including papers from Foulis Castle now held in the Highland Archives. These records provided information dating back into the medieval period and the Kirk Session records, surviving in patches from the 1690s, provided snapshots of information about the kirk and life in the parish.





The project also recorded the gravestones in the original kirkyard which surprisingly had never been done before. Volunteers recorded over 400 gravestones and lair markers, including a number of 17th and 18th century gravestones with engraved symbols of mortality. The project also involved a building survey which revealed evidence of a much older, medieval structure on the site, pre-dating the current building which was constructed in 1792.

The results of the project exceeded all our expectations and we would like to thank our sponsors for all their help. An exhibition, which pulls together the project findings, has been extremely well received and is currently on display in Cornerstone Café.

We are going to soon be launching a website where people can look at all the results of the project, helping people to research their family histories. We will also be installing an information panel, mounted on a natural stone plinth, that has been built just outside the Kirkyard so that visitors can gain an understanding of the importance of the Old Kirk to the village.

100 CLUB

Most of our funding comes from grant applications based on the projects we undertake and we are extremely grateful to all those who have supported the Trust over the course of the last year.

We will soon be launching a 100 club lottery. Members and non-members of the Trust will be able to buy numbered tickets which go into a monthly draw with 100 tickets available each month. Each ticket will cost £2. You will be able to pay in advance of each draw or set up a standing order.

When the draw is made a 50% of the money raised will be given out as a prize, and the remainder goes to support the work of the Trust.

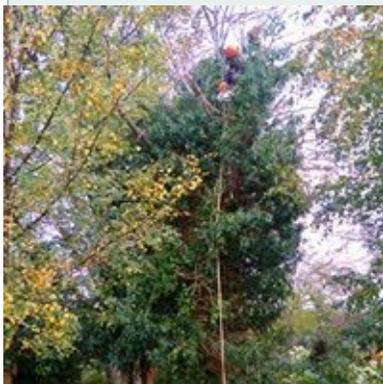
Check out our website for how to get your ticket. The first draw will be made when we have sold 25 tickets.

Good Luck!

COMMUNITY SPACES PROJECT

The quality of the spaces around the village make such a difference to how people feel about their home village and how visitors perceive the place. We have some fantastic spaces in the village but others could perhaps be improved. We are asking looking to launch a project that improves spaces across the village. This could include spaces being tidied up, new uses in those spaces or adding in some new features like benches or places to grow vegetables for the community.

We will be launching a questionnaire later in the year looking for your ideas on which spaces could be improved and how. In the mean time if you would like to get involved or would like to share your ideas please get in touch.



EVANTON'S VILLAGE GREEN

The Village Green was the Trusts first project when it was set up back in 2005. Since then it has been used for a number of events by groups from the village.

The village green is free to use but we do ask people to fill in a short booking form on our website just to make sure it isn't double booked. If you would like to use the Green for an event please get in touch and we will do our best to help.

Some of the maintenance of the green, like the grass cutting, is carried out by a contractor paid for by the Trust, the rest is carried out by our fantastic volunteers Lilian and Drake. The volunteers will again be working hard to get the green looking great. This year they will be creating a wildflower area toward the back of the green to help wildlife.

From June onwards we will be launching a monthly volunteer morning to help out our regular volunteers. No experience is required, just a willingness to help and a bucket full of enthusiasm. It will be from 9am—12pm on the first Saturday of the month.

We have to give a special thank you to SSE who came and carried out some maintenance on the trees to at the back of the Green late in 2017. This was done via their staff's community days project and we are grateful for the wonderful job they did.

We are considering some improvements to the Green over the course of the year to make it easier to use for events. Recently we were lucky to be awarded funding by Kiltarn Community Council to purchase some safety barriers which we can put in place during events.

We have recently replaced the information boards which were unfortunately subject to extensive vandalism in Autumn 2017. Other improvements we are considering include a new power supply so people do not have to rely on generators. If there are any other improvements you would like to see at the Green please get in touch.



KILTEARN FOOTPATH NETWORK

The Trust embarked on a project to improve the footpaths from Lower Balconie, along the shore, connecting up to the old Bothy on the foreshore and Old Kiltearn Kirk. These popular walking routes were in a state of disrepair, made worse by heavy rainfall which washed away a section of the path and the riverbank between Lower Balconie and the footbridge over the River.

Having secured funding from Postcode Lottery, The Highland Council, Kiltearn Community Council, The Woodland Trust and others we have undertaken a series of works including creation of wide and level footpaths; improvements to drainage; riverbank reinforcement; tree planting and shoreline reinforcement.

More recently we have also installed interpretation panels showing the footpath network and giving information about the area. Unfortunately these have been subject to some petty vandalism but we will be cleaning them up. If anyone sees any damage to these please report this to us via an email to chairman@ect.scot.

Thanks to some handy work with a digger by Foulis Estate we have now installed seating and picnic benches along the improved routes. These were purchased via funding raised by the Trust and have been made by Iain Chalmers of Chainsaw Creations. We think they look great and provide a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the fantastic scenery we have on our doorstep.

Over the rest of the year we will be carrying out routine maintenance on the paths so they remain accessible all year round.



GET IN TOUCH

Evanton Community Trust
Registered Office:
3 Ardullie Farm Cottages
Evanton
Dingwall
Ross-Shire
IV15 9TT
Company registration
number SC279421
Scottish Charity registration
number SC037837

Phone: 01349 831072
E-mail: Chairman@ect.scot

Like us on Facebook search for
Evanton Community Trust



ABOUT THE TRUST

The Evanton Community Trust is a charitable body which was set up in 2005 to undertake local projects designed to develop new and improve or preserve existing community assets for the benefit of the community in and around Evanton.

The Trust is registered in Scotland as a charitable company and its vision is "to see a robust, inclusive and thriving community in Evanton where people are proud to work and live"

An underlying principle that informs all the Trust's work is that of openness and transparency, presenting regular and clear information to its members and the community at large on all aspects of its work and activities, through local media, posters and leaflets as well as via web sites and social media outlets.

Membership of the Trust is free to anyone living in Kiltearn parish and you can apply via our website www.ect.scot.

The larger our membership, the easier it is for us to get funding for certain projects so the more people that sign up the better, so please encourage everyone you know to sign up so that together we can help to keep the village a great place to live, work and visit!



EVANTON COMMUNITY TRUST