

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2019 – September 2020



Photo by Kind permission of Forres Gazette

Key achievements and performance highlights for the period:

- FACT was awarded the Keystone Award for Community Building Management of Forres Town Hall in December 2019
- FACT secured Cyber Essentials Certification in January 2020 to ensure that we are digitally protected in our work
- Forres Town Hall had an increase of over 100% over the last year, with over 360 groups booking the building during this year despite closure from March 2020
- FACT co-ordinated the area response to the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with the local COVID-19 neighbourhood groups and tsiMORAY
- The Community Asset Transfer of Forres Town Hall was agreed by Moray Council in October 2019 and agreed by the Sheriff in December 2019
- FACT's application to stage 2 of the Scottish Land Fund was successful securing £116, 365 to enable us to purchase Forres Town Hall and develop the project further
- Extensive repairs of Forres Town Hall were completed in March 2020. This included replacing the emergency lighting system, repairing the roof, repairing the lintel above the disabled access and repairing the main hall floor, through funding from the Scottish Landfill Community Fund
- FACT secured funding from HIE to support its core work until 2022
- FACT secured funding from HIE and others to deliver our COVID- 19 response programme.

Directors on the 30th September 2020

- Fabio Villani, Chair
- Bea Jefferson, Treasurer
- Tina Coffey, Company Secretary
- Peter Airey
- Lorna Creswell
- Tom Duff
- Jim Farquharson
- Sandra MacIennan
- Laurie Piper
- Joanna Taylor
- Lesley Edwards

Staff on the 30th September 2020

- Debbie Herron, Development Manager
- Charlotte Grigg, Administrator
- Lauren Causier, Assistant Administrator
- Kirsty Williams, Older Person's Co-ordinator
- Janice Cooper, Forres Online Co-ordinator
- Euan Kershaw, Forres Online Support Staff
- Chris Thomas, General Assistant
- Jan MacPherson, Forres Town Hall Project Officer
- Lorretta Oliphant, COVID-19 Project Officer

We have had a busy and exciting year as the Community Asset Transfer of Forres Town Hall was agreed by Moray Council and the Sheriff at the end of 2019. We have seen continued engagement in the number of volunteers, supporters and groups working with us.

In February we hosted a community consultation event in partnership with tsiMORAY on behalf of the Leancoil Trust to gather information about what could happen with the old Leancoil Hospital. It was a very well attended event, with over 100 people attending on the night and willing to share their views, thoughts and ideas.



Everything changed in March 2020 as the country went into lockdown due to the pandemic and everything in the Town Hall was cancelled. Our projects went online and we worked remotely to deliver a range of services to meet the needs of the community. This included medicine collections, shopping, telephone befriending and support for those who needed extra help to get online during this time.



We also worked with Moray Food Plus and REAP to reach those who were struggling financially by providing access to funds for utility costs and food. This developed into a food project that delivered over 1300 meals to many people across the area with the support of fantastic volunteers, Moray Food Plus and the Osprey Trust.

We have to thank and admire all the volunteers who stepped forward to help and to see how the community came together to support each other and it was good to see the difference this made across the board.

We have missed seeing everyone at coffee mornings, community meals and other events and hope that we will be able to be together soon.

We have welcomed Lauren Causier as our Community Job Scotland Placement since December 2019. Lauren looks after our social media, newsletter and helps Charlotte with admin tasks. We also welcomed Lorretta Oliphant as our COVID-19 Project Officer, Lorretta hit the ground running back in April 2020. Last but not least, we welcomed Jan MacPherson as our Forres Town Hall Project Officer. Her role is to help us develop the Town Hall refurbishment project and is a real asset to the team. We said good-bye to Vicky Flood as she left us in September 2020. We wish her all the best for the future.

Work continues as we look to identify our priorities for the years ahead, in these changing times we are taking stock as to what is needed in our community. We will have completed this work in the new year and will share the plan then. But in the meantime, this is what we have been up to in our projects over the last 12 months.

Forres Online

Forres Online has succeeded in meeting many of its original objectives and continues to develop and expand even in these challenging times we are facing. We learned that teaching digital skills to vulnerable people takes lots of support, patience and understanding. Total number of people supported by the project via drop-in sessions, digital groups, training sessions were 822 before lockdown. We had a total of 336 hours of volunteer assistance to the project over 181 sessions.

Forres Online also takes care of our social media presence and they update the website with new information, classes and project updates. During lockdown Forres Online continued to assist up to 100 people through remote access and in socially distanced situations when permitted. Most recently Forres Online is participating in the Connecting Scotland initiative helping people access equipment and support to get online.



The Cameron Project



Prior to lockdown the project had a busy year with various social events and activities including gentle seated exercise, a 'sold out' Christmas shopping trip and creative arts and craft sessions.

During lockdown the 45 active volunteers during the COVID response supported Telephone Befriending and maintained contact with older people in the Forres Area during this time. Priority was given to those who were at home with no one but they also supported complex cases where there were signs

of dementia and reductions in mental health. Volunteers reported any issues which allowed us to offer further support to the clients through the other initiatives we had to offer, or we sign posted and referred to other agencies including health and social care. Several of the volunteers who came forward were either shielding or self-isolating which in turn reduced their social isolation through volunteering as a telephone befriender.

Working in partnership with the Forres Osprey bus we set up a shopping and delivery service. Volunteers did the shopping at Tesco with a gift card and then passed the shopping to the volunteer bus driver who delivered the shopping. This minimised risk of volunteers being exposed and putting themselves at risk. Volunteers also collected and delivered prescriptions for those who were self-isolating.

Forres Skate Park Initiative

This group is now independent and became a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation during 2019, we continue to offer support as they develop their plans going forward.

Forres Town Hall

A bid to buy Forres Town Hall and turn it into a venue for community, business and training events have been successful with our application to the Scottish Land Fund. Forres Area Community Trust has been awarded £116,365 to purchase the hall, which has been a feature of the town's High Street since 1829, in order to provide community facilities, meeting rooms, study and workshop areas, training facilities and co-working hot desks. Securing the Town Hall into community ownership and having the support of the Scottish Land Fund is the first step in redeveloping and refurbishing the building for the benefit of the community.

A volunteer's story

"My happy place is a golden meadow surrounded by thick bushy trees bordered by a sparkling stream under a bright blue sky. FACT has provided me with the stepping-stones to get there. How do I get there? By volunteering, I share my skills and life experiences with others. I appreciate that volunteering is not for everyone but try it and see what it can do for you. What do I do? Well, anything that is needed whether it be setting out tables and chairs (after all we need to sit down at meetings) to kitchen work (my background) communication-a human sign post what is happening and when. I do not do it for recognition but because it makes me feel good. Forres Online is where I spend most of my time; it does not mean I have brilliant digital skills but that personal touch makes all the difference. The food project is where I have invested my time lately. Where we seek to address one of the major problems in our society today, HUNGER so it may mean opening bags, packing, deliveries and having local knowledge for planning, it is all appreciated. A job well done is reward enough and FACT helps me in ways that are still unfolding." **Graham Watson**



Thank you to all our members, volunteers, partner organisations and funders for your help and support over the last year and in particular to:

<i>Highland and Islands Enterprise</i>	<i>Forres Town Hall Users Group</i>
<i>National Lottery Community Fund</i>	<i>Foundation Scotland</i>
<i>Scottish Land Fund</i>	<i>Funded by Foundation Scotland from the Baillie Gifford Fund</i>
<i>Auchernack Trust</i>	<i>Findhorn Bay Arts</i>
<i>Bank of Scotland Foundation</i>	<i>Leancoil Trust</i>
<i>Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund</i>	<i>Moray Waste Busters</i>
<i>Co-op Community Fund</i>	<i>Moray ReBoot</i>
<i>Corra Foundation</i>	<i>Moray Council</i>
<i>COVID-19 Neighbourhood Groups</i>	<i>Moray Food Plus</i>
<i>Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS)</i>	<i>Moray Well Being Hub</i>
<i>Erskine</i>	<i>REAP</i>
<i>Finderne Development Trust</i>	<i>SSE Beatrice Fund</i>
<i>Heritage Trust Network</i>	<i>Community Job Scotland</i>
<i>Impact Funding Partners</i>	<i>SCVO Digital Fund</i>
<i>Forres Area Forum</i>	<i>SCVO Well Being Fund</i>
<i>Forres in Bloom</i>	<i>Tesco Forres</i>
<i>Forres Community Activities Association</i>	<i>The Osprey Trust</i>
<i>Forres Heritage Trust</i>	<i>TSi MORAY</i>

FORRES AREA COMMUNITY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended March 2020

		2020	2020	2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	Total funds
Note	funds	funds	£	£
	£	£		
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	5	45,988	211,395	257,383
Total income		45,988	211,395	257,383
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,7	–	207,461	207,461
Total expenditure		–	207,461	207,461
Net income and net movement in funds		45,988	3,934	49,922
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		55,482	49,734	105,216
Total funds carried forward		101,470	53,668	155,138

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

Forres Area Community Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in Scotland as Company No: SC412275

Forres Area Community Trust is a Charity registered in Scotland, No: SC044953