



Knocknagael: a Green Hub for our Community

Newsletter 2024/1

www.knocknagael.org.uk

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2024, which we hope will be a big year for Knocknagael!

The bureaucracy entailed in the Asset Transfer process trundles on, but we have passed a major milestone recently; through our solicitor we submitted a formal purchase offer for the Smiddy Field. We await a response!

In the meantime, we continue to try to progress things on various fronts on your behalf, and we were delighted with the attendance at, and contribution from many members at our AGM on the 17th January.

At the AGM, there were two changes in the membership of the Knocknagael Board. Steve Rowan stepped down as Director & Ged Church joined as our newest Director.

Our Chairman, Maria de La Torre said '*on behalf of all the Directors I would like to express a special thanks to Steve, who has been one of the founding Directors, and fundamental in driving the project forward from the start. He has played a major role in the organisation, helping Knocknagael develop into a company and charity. Steve played a key part in negotiations with Scottish Government through a very challenging period. Above all, his commitment to the project, experience and hu-*

mour have helped us move forward. So we are glad that although not a Director, Steve continues to participate as a member and, temporarily, as Company Secretary.'

Ged Church is from London and has lived around and in Inverness since 1976. He studied zoology at London University and has worked as a Laboratory Scientist and school teacher in Scotland.

Other work has included self employment in garden and property maintenance, woodland learning and cycle maintenance. His interests are the natural world especially bird watching, walking, cycling and reading. He has been involved in community and national projects around cycling, walking and woodlands since 1989, and is an associate trustee of Aird Community Trust. He has been involved with the Inverness to Beauly Shared use route since the 1990s and has grown much of his family's food organically in garden and allotment for most of his adult life.



We have been successful in securing a small amount of funding from the Highlands and Islands Climate Action Fund to support another Apple Grafting Day. We are fortunate in having Des Kelly's expertise to draw upon, and the event will take place at Des and Kay's orchard at Torbreck on Saturday 20th April.

Come along to learn (or perfect) a new skill and help us build our stock for the planned community orchard.



Knocknagael's First Apple Grafting Day

And finally, some dates for your diary

- ⇒ 1 'Potato Day' **Saturday 9th March** from 10am till 12 noon at Green Drive Hall. Incredible Edible are hosting an event for you to buy your seed potatoes and there will be a plant & seed stall, teas & coffees etc.
- ⇒ 2 Knocknagael Annual Ceilidh **Saturday 13th April** 7 to 10.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall. See flier on the following page. Don't miss out!
- ⇒ 3 Apple Grafting Saturday **20th April** at Torbreck Orchard. More details to follow but register your interest for the event at grow@knocknagael.org.uk

Knocknagael Social Gathering and fundraising Ceilidh

**JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING
SATURDAY 13TH APRIL
7-10.30 PM**

MUSIC FROM GET REEL!

**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL
30 HUNTRY STREET, INVERNESS IV3 5PR**

**TICKETS: £10 PP KIDS FREE
(16/17 YEARS OLD £5)**

RAFFLE & BOTTLE GAME

BYO DRINKS AND POT LUCK SUPPER

To book tickets email: ronaldmacvicar@gmail.com or
KayKelly@doctors.org.uk

Remaining tickets will be available at the door

www.knocknagael.com

**Knocknagael
a GREEN HUB
for our communities**



Limited parking round the back and streets
lift share, cycle or walk if you can