



## Newsletter 9, 12 November 2019.

Dear member

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> in our series of newsletters designed to keep our members up to date with the work being carried out by Rhynie Charitable Trust and to address any issues or queries raised by our members.

The 2019 AGM is shortly due and we will be in contact with members to give the notice of the meeting. Attendance at previous AGMs has not been good and we would like to impress on members that we need your feedback to ensure we continue to take the Trust in the best direction for its members. Also, this year, we will have some news for you about a project we know many of you will be interested in. This concerns the Pictish Stones for which Rhynie is well-known, including the Rhynie Man, so come along and find out what we have been looking at.

Previous newsletters have been distributed by an email mailing through MailChimp. We are a little concerned about the level of opening of these emails, and whether members are receiving these. The rate of opening appears to be between 76% and, most recently, 54%. It may be that some of these disappear into Spam boxes so are never seen. So this time we are distributing by post to each of the addresses we have registered for members.

We have also been asked by a number of members about what the Trust is presently doing, so we are taking this opportunity to tell you about various projects we are working on and update with current progress.

### Trust officers

Mike continues as Chair and Averil is continuing as Treasurer. Colin Mumford is responsible for the membership and Debbi remains a Director coordinating the Pictish Stones study.

Colin Neesom continues to organise and run the 100 Club and other events, besides serving as announcer for the Gala. George Beverly has been working on path improvements for Tap O Noth. He also gives us the benefit of his wide local knowledge and experience.

We would welcome anyone who may be interested in assisting the Board with some or all of the Secretary duties. Please contact Mike for more information.

### 100 Club

The club currently has 81 members and still has vacancies. The prize fund is 60% of the subscriptions divided between 5 prizes each month (£110, £55, £30, £20 & £15) and the remainder is retained by RCT for community purposes. We would welcome any members who are not currently in the 100 Club and who would like to join. Please contact Colin Neesom (861004).

The Club has handed out a prize fund so far for 2019 of £2255 and contributed £1405 to RCT. A full list of past winners can be seen on our website.

Rhynie Community Facilities Development Charitable Trust  
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Registered office: The Cottage, Cottown, Rhynie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 4LX  
Charity registered in Scotland number SC037455



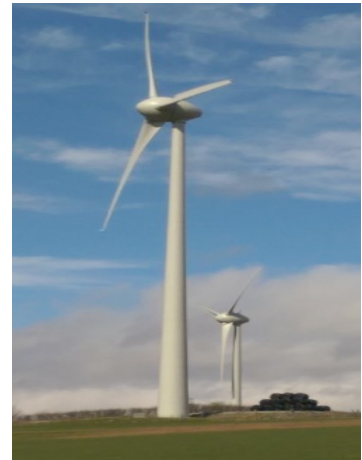


## Community Hall

Since our efforts in regard to finding community space for the village have foundered – the Gordon Arms and then the Congregational Church – we have left this project somewhat on the backburner. It does appear to us that the question of a village hall doesn't seem to be a priority at the moment. We are, however, looking at other possible locations but for the time being can't give more detail. If, and when, we have more information we will let everybody know.

## Wheedlemont Turbine Fund

The money for the first year, up to September 2017, has been paid by the developers to HDDT and transferred to RCT. The value for 2017 was c£9660, which is significantly higher than expected, and two invitations to apply for grants have led to awards to 8 qualifying projects in Rhynie and Auchindore & Kearns parishes. We have distributed £4670 to these projects.



Sadly there was no funding in 2018 due to a misunderstanding with the developers accounting and we have recently been advised that changes to the developers financing mean that we have, in fact, been overpaid and it looks like we can't expect any more money until 2022. The money we have remaining will be spread over the next two years.

## Paths projects

We are still working with other communities in a project known as 'The Kingdom of the Picts' Trail to provide a walking and cycling route linking six communities from Gartly in Strathbogie to Corgarff in Strathdon.

A route for the Trail has been drafted running from Gartly through the Clashindarroch Forest to the ski trails at Black Middens, over The Buck then across the south side of the Cabrach into Glen Buchat, along the Ladder Hills and then down to Corgarff. The steering group is still seeking to discuss the issues with the estates but in the meantime will be looking at tracks to link communities to the route.

Work on a logo for the project has also been led by Anne Murray, a local artist, to produce images which can be incorporated into a logo to be displayed on waymark posts along the route. Workshops at all the village schools has produced individual images which will be incorporated into one.

We have completed the upgrading and repair of the path to Tap O Noth from the car park to the first deer gate. Funding came from RCT, TONCC, Marr Area Committee and Cairnmore Wind Farm. Problems over the signing have been resolved and new signs are being obtained. Overall, comments on the new path have been positive.



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Recently we have also provided information to a project for Huntly and District Development Trust seeking to identify all paths in the AB54 area. Various public meetings have been held to gather information on paths presently used and paths to which people would aspire. A consultant has been appointed to report on the information.

## Rhynie Chert SSSI

We still have aspirations for this site and we have been looking at a possible path up the hill to join with the higher path up Tap O Noth. This would allow walkers to ascend the hill from the village without using the road. We have identified a line for the path through the SSSI which would reach the road to Windyfield. Beyond that would obviously require discussion and negotiation with landowners and we have spoken to them but, so far, we don't have agreement to promote the route.

If anyone has any ideas for this site or would like to help with any development, please contact us.

## Pictish Stones project

We have been discussing the Pictish stones from Rhynie with Gordon Noble of Aberdeen University and how these could be best displayed. We commissioned a feasibility study to look into the present state of the stones and how they could be preserved and presented for the future. This would, hopefully, include the return of Rhynie Man. The report has been received and the authors will be available at the AGM to announce their findings and suggestions for how we might proceed.



## Rhynie Memorial

Finally we would like to note that the War Memorial in Rhynie Square will be 100 years old on 20 May 2020 and it may be fitting to commemorate this. If any members have any comments on whether or how this might be appropriate we would be pleased to receive suggestions.



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Finally, we would like to extend an invitation to any persons who wish to help with the work of the Trust. If you would like to serve on the Board or assist in any other way we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact any of the Board members below.

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Newsletters and other member communications will be distributed by email or post depending on the information provided by individual members. Please note, if you do not receive an emailed copy we do not have your email address. We would appreciate any members who have so far not provided an email address to do so, if possible, since this is our preferred communication medium as it is cheaper and quicker.

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If you have not received our previous newsletters and would like to see copies of these or if you would like to check that we have your correct email address, please do not hesitate to contact us. Newsletters can also be downloaded from our website [rhyniecharitabletrust.co.uk/pages/members/newsletters.php](http://rhyniecharitabletrust.co.uk/pages/members/newsletters.php).

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