



Newsletter 10, 15 October 2021.

Dear member

This is the 10th 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. We have been somewhat remiss in keeping up with sending out these newsletters, which has not been helped by the CoVid19 pandemic.

The 2021 AGM was held on Sunday 10 October 2021 in No.14, The Square, Rhynie. Attendance, as at previous AGMs, was not good although we did manage to achieve a quorum, allowing the AGM to proceed. As we had a Special Resolution to consider it was important that we were able to hold the meeting. We would like to impress on members that we need your input and feedback to ensure we continue to take the Trust in the best direction for its members.

The minutes of the AGM will be available for members to download shortly, together with a copy of the Special Resolution which was not passed but is being made available to allow members to have full knowledge of our deliberations.

Also we now have more 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. The final report has been provided enabling us to move forward and start some of the conservation work.

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 for our last message announcing the AGM was only 69.7%. This was sent out to 76 members for whom we have an email address so only 53 members opened this. It may be that some of these disappear into Spam boxes so are never seen but we are open to suggestions for how we can improve this.

We were able to briefly update those members who attended the AGM on some of the projects we have been working on but there was a suggestion that we should resume our newsletters to ensure that the information reaches as many of our members as possible.

Trust officers

Mike Davies continues as Chair and Averil Stewart is continuing as Treasurer. Colin Mumford is responsible for the membership.

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.

Debbi Beeson is no longer a Director but has agreed to continue coordinating the Pictish Stones study as she has contacts with the consultants

Rhynie Community Facilities Development Charitable Trust
Company registered in Scotland: SC309832
Registered office: The Cottage, Cottown, Rhynie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 4LX
Charity registered in Scotland number SC037455





We would welcome anyone who may be interested in assisting the Board with some or all of the Secretary duties. Please contact Mike (861535, or mike@braeheadrhynie.co.uk) for more information.

Members list

Since we changed the membership grades to make all members Life members a few years ago we have been struggling to make sense of the records we hold of members information. In particular, for some members we only have an email address, some we have only a postal address, some we have both and for a very few we appear to have no address at all. This does make it awkward when trying to send out information to members and we are trying to rationalise things.

Colin Mumford is now responsible for our member information and he would welcome any up to date contact information you can provide. You can email him at colin.jwmumford@gmail.com.

100 Club

The Club started in December 2015, so is coming up to it's 6th anniversary. In March 2021, money raised for RCT hit the £10,000 mark The total paid out to members since inception amounts to around £13000. During this calendar year, we have given out more than £1900 in prizes.

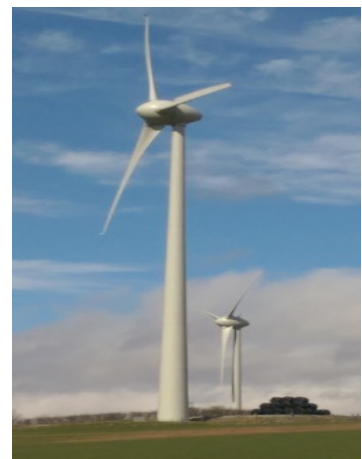
The club currently has 92 members so still has 8 vacancies. The prize fund is 60% of the subscriptions divided between 5 prizes each month (£110, £55, £30, £20 & £15) and the remainder is retained by RCT for community purposes. We would welcome any members who are not currently in the 100 Club and who would like to join. Please contact Colin Neesom (861004).

A full list of past winners can be seen on our website.

Wheedlemont Turbine Fund

Since the inception of this fund, up to October 2021, a total of £15,285 has been paid by the developers to HDDT and transferred to RCT. The value for 2019 was £9660, which is significantly higher than expected, plus two smaller payments in 2020 and 2021. There have been four invitations to apply for grants which have led to awards to 14 qualifying projects in Rhynie and Auchindore & Kearns parishes. We have distributed a total of £8270 to these projects.

As we had funds remaining after the distribution we decided the balance should be offered to RCT and Lumsden Community Association, representing the two parishes, for use on designated projects.



Rhynie Community Facilities Development Charitable Trust
Company registered in Scotland: SC309832
Registered office: The Cottage, Cottown, Rhynie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 4LX
Charity registered in Scotland number SC037455



Paths projects

a) We are still working with other communities on 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. This has now been extended to reach to Huntly.

A route for the Trail has been drafted running from Huntly 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.

b) 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 have been supplied by Aberdeenshire Council. Overall, comments on the new path have been positive and it is wearing well.

c) In 2019 we also provided information to a project for Huntly Development Trust seeking to identify paths in the AB54 area which are either currently used by walkers or would be aspirational paths. Various public meetings were held to gather information on paths presently used and paths to which people would aspire. A consultant was appointed to report on the information, which was completed early in 2020.

HDT are in the process of setting up a website with mapping so these routes can be available for local residents and visitors to the area. The report can be downloaded at <https://www.huntlydt.org/uploads/AB54-path-network-survey-record-9-Nov-2020.pdf>.

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 was presented at the last AGM (2019) by the consultants and the final report was received in 2020. This set out their recommendations for how we might proceed with an indication of the priority for the various proposals. We are now starting work on the most urgent issues, beginning with the shelter by the cemetery.

Rhynie Memorial

We noted before that the War Memorial in Rhynie Square was 100 years old on 20 May 2020 and proposed to commemorate this with a street party. Unfortunately, due to the CoVid restrictions this was postponed until 2021, and then had to be further postponed to 2022. We are now intent on holding these celebrations in conjunction with the Queen's Platinum jubilee next year. A sub-committee has been formed to organise this and I am sure they would welcome offers of help. If any members have any other comments on how this might be appropriate we would be pleased to receive suggestions.



--oo0oo--

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.

--oo0oo--

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.**

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.

Mike Davies, Chair	mike@rhyniecharitabletrust.co.uk	01464 861535
Colin Neesom, Director	colinneesom@gmail.com	01464 861004
Colin Mumford, Director	colin.jwmumford@gmail.com	01464 861080
George Beverly, Director	george@bgbeverlyjoiners.co.uk	01464 861207
Averil Stewart, Treasurer	AverilStewart@BTInternet.com	01464 861636

Rhynie Community Facilities Development Charitable Trust
Company registered in Scotland: SC309832
Registered office: The Cottage, Cottown, Rhynie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 4LX
Charity registered in Scotland number SC037455

