

Focus stays on CCTV for town

HUNTLY Community Council continues to pursue a means to have CCTV coverage in the town.

Town-wide, centrally managed schemes have been ruled out previously because of cost and issues over who would monitor the footage.

However, at the February meeting, community councillor Ian Little said that the cost of systems to monitor individual premises was coming down and was now in the region of £500.

Mr Little plans to contact local businesses to see how many would be interested in protecting their own premises with CCTV and whose footage could then be accessed if there was an incident of vandalism.

He said: "James Paxton at the Digital Croft tells me he is approached almost every week by police who want to know if his CCTV images can help them with something they are investigating."

"Shops monitor their own premises but also people going past - £500 is not a lot for a business, we should try to generate interest in it."

Award will help bread project to rise

By Pat Scott

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A PROJECT in Huntly which flourished in the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic is one of nearly 280 across Scotland to receive funding from the Community Climate Asset Fund.

The Heritage Bakery arm of Deveron Projects has been awarded £12,866.58.

It will fund a small-scale flour mill to enable the bakery to work in collaboration with Coldwells Organic Farm in Inch, which grows the wheat to produce the wholemeal flour used in the bakery.

Heritage bakers, Kate Taylor-Beale and Christine Sell make the loaves from scratch using a traditional sourdough method.

The bakery, at 8 Castle Street, operates from Wednesday, when the sourdough starter is prepared, through to Saturday.

As production has grown to meet demand, goods now go on sale from each Wednesday until stocks run out on the Saturday.

Since the project began, it has evolved and each week in addition to the traditional breads, baguettes and focaccia loaves, for weekends,



Christine Sell with some of the handmade, sourdough bread which is made in the heritage bakery at 8 Castle Street. Picture: Daniel Forsyth

cinnamon buns and croissants, plain and chocolate are baked.

Christine joined the project as a trainee and as soon as Covid restrictions allow, there will be opportunities for volunteers and trainees to get involved.

Initially funded by a project

grant, the aim is to make the bakery a viable business. At the outset the bakery goods were sold on a pay what you can basis, but now there are set prices.

Christine said: "The bakery will eventually move into the former Square Deal. Here on Castle Street,

people stop and look in through the windows to see what's been baked.

"People seem to really like it and the weekend treats go down really well."

"We get a lot of good feedback, it's almost as if the bread cheers people up. In the longer term we would like to supply other outlets too. We really want to see it grow and create training and employment opportunities for local people."

The award will also fund an apple press and Deveron Projects will work with a fledgling apple juice and cider project to ensure that the most is made of apple crops each autumn.

From the same fund, The Gordon School received £1,631.10 for food growing equipment. The money will buy five raised garden sleeper beds and topsoil.

The beds will be located in different areas of the school campus to grow vegetables garden and herbs to be used in the home economics department.

Climate Change Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "Communities across the country are playing a vital role in responding to the pandemic crisis and in maintaining our resilience."



Andrew and Linda Meiklejohn have been mentioned in the Scottish Parliament.

Holyrood accolade for hosts

THE owners of The Castle Hotel have been recognised in the Scottish Parliament for putting up dozens of people free of charge after they were stranded by snow.

The MSP for Aberdeenshire West, Alexander Burnett, asked that Linda and Andrew Meiklejohn, be recognised, for accommodating stranded travellers during the recent extreme winter conditions on the A96.

A doctor, paramedic and children were among those offered rooms by the couple.

Mr Burnett said they were a credit to the Huntly community.

He said: "These people faced the

prospect of freezing in a car park overnight, which would have been absolutely dreadful.

"However it's people like Linda and Andrew Meiklejohn who put a smile on everyone's faces during such a difficult period caused by both the weather and Covid."

"This was an outstanding act of kindness and generosity. Their efforts ensured everyone was safe."

Mrs Meiklejohn thanked the MSP and also all the people who had contacted them to show their appreciation through kind words and dropping off gifts.

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