

Music and chat events are planned

DEVERON Projects' current artists-in-residence will be hosting an online music session on Sunday.

Lizabett Russo and Graeme Stephen will be asking what people are afraid of, through music and conversation.

The event will begin with music from Lizabett and Graeme that reflects on the evening's theme, which will then lead to a discussion and sharing of ideas around the topic.

The session gets under way at 5pm and there's a link to zoom on www.deveron-projects.com/events

Julie Montgomery is the lunch speaker tomorrow.

Ms Montgomery will talk about the role of sheltered housing in Aberdeenshire, allowing older people and those with particular needs to live independently, with the right support, in a comfortable and secure environment.

The lunch, at 1pm, will be on Microsoft Teams and anyone can join by clicking the link on the website – there is no requirement to make an account.

Wind fund pays out £881k in five years

By Pat Scott

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THE Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund is celebrating that up to May last year, in the five years since it was established, it had awarded £881,330 in over 100 grants to groups across the communities of Cabrach, Huntly, Strathbogie and Tap o' Noth.

A new report illustrates the impact the fund has already made for people in the four areas served by the Huntly, Strathbogie and Tap o' Noth community councils and the Cabrach Community Association during its first five years.

Huntly-based Networks of Wellbeing (NoW) received a grant of £17,327 in 2017 to provide individual mental health support and community-based activities.

The funding supported a one-to-one counselling service for 200 members of the community in need – double what had been estimated when the application was made.

Another project which met the fund priority of improving local facilities was the Scott Hall in Forgue.

Grants totalling £72,800 were awarded between 2017 and 2018 to carry out repairs after dry rot was



A fund based on income from the Clashindarroch wind farm has made 100 awards.

found in the hall's roof – work, including the replacement of selected windows, repairs to a gable area, re-pointing, joinery work and internal and external decoration, which the committee would not have been able to fund from its own resources, was carried out.

In addition, the fund allocated £20,000 to a Coronavirus Emergency Fund, as the pandemic began to pose challenges for many in the local area.

Demand has been high, and a total of £14,600 has been awarded to local organisation. A further

£10,000 has been allocated to the emergency fund to provide further support during the continuing challenging times.

Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund is administered by the independent charity Foundation Scotland.

Decisions on the fund strategy, and the awarding of grants, are made by a panel of local people drawn from the four communities.

Chairman of the panel George Wordie said: "The fund is meeting local needs, reaching all of the communities in its area, as well as the fund priorities. We have taken the opportunity of the five-year anniversary to review the fund, and feel it is working well. The support from Foundation Scotland, including detailed research into applications, is also very welcome, and makes the panel's job easier."

Community groups and organisations are invited to apply for future rounds of funding.

The next deadline for applications is Monday, January 25. Application forms can be found on the Clashindarroch page of Foundation Scotland's website, where details of future dates are available.



Pupils in the citizenship class at The Gordon Schools with the shoeboxes they filled.

Pupils' good deed all boxed up

PUPILS in a citizenship class at The Gordon Schools have committed to supporting Huntly Rotary Club's shoebox appeal – just as soon as they can again.

In the run-up to Christmas, the pupils managed to fill 30 of the special boxes supplied by the club, and despite home schooling, hope to fill more when classes resume.

The pupils were strategic in their work, and filled boxes in line with the categories suggested – baby, young child, teenager, and household. They contained toys, warm clothing, stationery, toiletries and a variety of other useful items.

Members of the community filled 77

boxes, which were dispatched to the Rotary collection centre for onward transport to orphanages and family centres in Eastern Europe.

Rotary president Ian Esslemont said: "The club is grateful to everyone who has filled shoeboxes during what have been challenging times for everyone. Like puppies, Rotary shoeboxes are not just for Christmas, and we have another batch of 150 ordered, which we hope it will be possible to have distributed and filled ready to send off in April."

Toiletries, stationery, hats, gloves, small toys and playing cards can all be included in the shoeboxes.

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