

Welcome to HOPE's first newsletter. We will be publishing these monthly to keep you updated with what's been happening.

STV Appeal Success

In January we were presented with a cheque for £2000 from the STV 2014 Appeal. We will be using this money to help pay our ongoing heating and rental costs



Information Sharing with MeCOPP

We've teamed up with MeCOPP to provide a series of monthly information sharing sessions in Benderloch and have been greatly helped by members of the Gypsy-Traveller Community to provide a delicious meal.



RHS Scotland Communities Fund

In early February we were informed that our application to the RHS Scotland Communities Fund had been successful. This is to fund a one year project with Green Shoots at the Glencruitten Walled Garden. Volunteers and Service Users will develop a kitchen garden. The aim of this is learn new skills, enjoy healthy outdoor activities and grow food to use in the HOPE kitchen



Coffee and Cakes

Our Coffee Morning in January was a great success – raising nearly £200. Thank you to everyone who supported us with this – especially our volunteers for the extra time they put in setting it all up



Volunteers Needed

We're actively looking to increase our team of volunteers to support with the work we do – the more help we get, the more we can do

If you have a particular skill such as cooking, crafts, IT, gardening (the list goes on...) that you would be willing to share, please let us know (and we're open to new ideas)

We are also looking for general volunteers to help in the kitchen, support the drop in service and do food collections

We offer full training to all our volunteers and are more than happy to accommodate both regular and 'as & when' availability.



Welcoming New Board Members

We have recently welcomed Kathryn Wilkie, Rev. Nicki McNelly and Catriona Petit to our Board of Trustees

Our Board now comprises of:

Dr Stuart Chalmers – Chair

Mrs Tricia Morrison – Vice Chair

Miss Mary Black – Treasurer

Mr Elliott Morrison – Secretary

Mrs Kathryn Wilkie

Mrs Catriona Petit

Very Reverend Nicki McNelly

What's happening?

Our annual sleepout will be on Saturday 28th February. Please help us to raise awareness of the challenges faced by homeless people and to raise money for HOPE – more details to follow on our Facebook page

Our next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 1st April, 10-1230 at our centre on Argyll Street

What else have we been up to...?

The cold weather has seen an increase in people using the services and needing additional warm clothes which we have been able to provide. We have seen an increase in people using our laundry facilities to help their fuel money go further. We were in a position to support some rough sleepers over Christmas – providing sleeping bags, extra layers and support to access other services

In response to what our Service Users have said they want, we are looking at ways we can open more often and for longer as well as introducing more activities into our drop in sessions. Last week a group of Service Users enjoyed a supper followed by a film at HOPE –something we plan to repeat.

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