

Valley renewables group



The Development Trust for Carron Valley Community

Valley Renewables Group Newsletter

Issue 14, August 2016

Community Open Day

Making the most of our land and community

Make **Saturday 27th Aug** a 'must go' day in your diary and make your way to Craigend Farm for the best ever Community Open Day organised by Valley Renewables. From 12 noon until 4.00pm the farm will be buzzing with a variety of stalls, demonstrations, activities, a free BBQ, and marquees, toilets and parking. This year the emphasis is on Rural Enterprise and Crafts. Amongst the stalls will be - willow weaving, mosaics, nature table, flower arranging, baking, the history and heritage of Carron Valley, Community Woodland Scotland, Community Broadband Scotland, Foot o'Green eggstremely good eggs.....

A stimulating series of talks will take place during the afternoon including:-

12.30: Jo Davidson will talk about his project for Bowie Wood.

1.00pm: Alison Swanston from Stirling Allotments who will talk about aids to growing vegetables in the Stirling area. Alison gave a talk last year which was much appreciated and she is well versed in growing for food and extending the growing season.

2.00pm: We are delighted to welcome Murray Cook, Stirling Council's archaeologist who has organised many community based activities, helping to unearth more of our local heritage. Murray will talk about the Battle of Sauchieburn which takes its name from our area and is within the designated battlefield site. Much attention has of course been focused on Bannockburn and the Battle of Stirling Bridge, but this battle has been overlooked in the popular record, even though it was a pivotal event and involved the murder of a monarch.

3pm: Our own Andy Gallagher of the Forestry Commission talks about the management plans for the Carron Valley forests.

3.40pm: Discussion of the proposed plans for a community base in the deer larder area at Carron Valley.

There will be a special children's section devoted to **Crafts and Activities** including a **Nature Table** with the chance to use our recently acquired community microscope.

Stirling Cycle Hub will be in attendance with a range of bikes and guided rides involving their electric bicycle. A **free BBQ** together with soft refreshments will be available during the event.

Come and meet your neighbours, several of whom have just recently moved into the area.

Sir John de Graham's Castle and the Kirk o' Muir

Unless you are a history buff, or a local resident who knows these sites, you could be forgiven for not knowing that there is an important castle ruin in our area, and a site associated with the turbulent and often tragic times of the covenanters. Sir John de Graham's castle is a classic example of a motte and bailey castle and can be found in a commanding position on raised ground near the NW end of the Carron Valley reservoir. De Graham was the founder of the House of Montrose, a major family in Scottish history, and died fighting with William Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk, 1298.



Kirk o'Muir is an old burial ground and site of former chapel overlooking the reservoir. It is associated with the covenanters and there is an annual service of commemoration held there which used to be attended by hundreds of people. The site is in need of some TLC.



VRG has been in discussion about these sites with **Murray Cook**, whose talk on the Battle of Sauchieburn will be a highlight of the forthcoming Community Open Day. It is possible that an application for funding may be possible to finance a survey of the heritage and tourist potential of these sites. At present these sites are under-exploited and, with interpretative facilities and promotion, could bring many more visitors to the valley. Kirk o'Muir and De Graham Castle sites are linked by a path which affords an opportunity to make a heritage trail. It is early days yet but VRG will explore how this can be taken forward.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information:

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