Climate Café notes 19.08.2020

**Trees:** AF, KS and LS visited the site in Glen Isla – several pluses but too far from Blair to be a community woodland. Cathy may explore whether a group nearer the site might want to take this further. A site in Blair may be a possibility. KS is investigating – watch this space. This could include fruit trees.

LR has plans to plant trees on the Bamff estate. Volunteers needed – probably planting in November. Also, a survey of biodiversity to be carried out imminently.

**Land maintenance and PKC:** A reply to the letter sent on 30.6 has now been received but no promises of action. LS has forwarded the letter to Barbara Renton and Angus Forbes (operational head and convenor of the PKC Environment Committee respectively). Decisions on next year’s budget will be made at the end of September so all of us need to apply whatever pressure we can through our councillors and in whatever other ways are at our disposal.

James Byrne (Pesticide Action Network) has researched the risks of Glyphosate and the safer alternatives. We will ask him to talk with us – possibly a one-off event rather than at our next meeting. He is working with Stirling Council to change their practices.

**Books:** CS has sent a list of books on climate change – this will go out to all on the CC mailing list and suggestions for additions requested. Alyth Library has declined the suggestion that it should have a climate section. Blair Library is willing to promote climate issues with a display once the Covid restrictions are lifted.

Similarly, Booklore in Blair is willing to have a Climate Café page in their main information folder which can include contact info and a suggested reading list.

This led on to the suggestion that Climate Café websites have a Resources section – books, websites, talks etc. LS & KS asked for help to do this (lack of technical know-how!).

**Apples:** There won’t be a community apple pressing event in Blair this year. Andrew Lear (aka the apple tree man) may run some days from the farm in Spittalfield – check his FB page. K & L may acquire a scratter and press for small scale pressings.

KB will collect and distribute apples around the town as in previous years – any volunteers welcomed.

**Alyth:** The online events on growing and cooking food, with an emphasis on local produce were well attended.

Climate change books are to be made available to the public via a phone box in the square.

Food For Thought is a local initiative similar to the Food Banks across the country but independent. Usage has dropped since lockdown restrictions were eased but it is seen as likely to be needed for a long time. The current rise in Covid infections in the area covering Coupar Angus, Blair and Alyth suggests there may be a local lockdown imposed soon.

**Aberfeldy:** NeighbourFood is up and running. Seen as a welcome initiative to boost local producers and shops, it is still in its infancy. Experience elsewhere suggests that it will grow as word spreads.

The food larder is proving valuable.

**Other groups:** We talked about some forthcoming events from the Fridays for Future movement;   
<https://fridaysforfuture.org/>

Extinction rebellion also has a series of events coming up.

**Economic Recovery and Just Transition:** Jess Pepper has sent a response to the Scottish Government’s recovery plan making a strong point of the absolute need to keep the climate and nature emergency at the forefront of the recovery. The letter is available to anyone who would like a copy. She also sent the reports from the 2 Big Climate Conversation events held in 2019. Martin Mathers (HEAT project) has also written a short response in which he highlights Transport, Home Energy Efficiency and Planning – this is also available – Climate Café members to let Len know if they want a copy of any of these.

**Next meeting: September 16th 7.00 – 8.30.**