

Soirbheas

Investing in the communities of Glen Urquhart & Strathglass

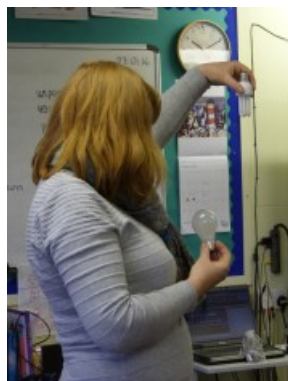
Energy Champions Unleashed



Soirbheas recently launched its Renewables and Energy Saving educational pack by delivery of fun interactive energy saving sessions in Cannich, Balnain, Glen Urquhart primary schools and Glen Urquhart Child-care Centre. The aim of the pack is to encourage children to become energy champions at school and in their own homes by taking action



with a range of simple energy reduction tips. So far over 150 children have taken part in the sessions in their endeavors to becoming energy champions!



Soirbheas also works in collaboration with Home Energy Scotland who have a team of specially trained home renewables advisors who can provide guidance tailored to your individual circumstances. As part of this

free service they can provide in-depth advice over the phone or visit your home. For more information, visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/free-home-visits or call 0808 808 2282.

Sourcing Funding Session

Monday 11th April at 7pm, Drumnadrochit

Where to start, who to apply to and how to write a strong grant application for funding for your project.

To book a place email carolmasheter@soirbheas.org

Check out the website for other training dates.

Tattie Project 2016

As requested the Tattie Project is back, all in a bid to encourage yet more of you to reach for the garden fork! The aim of Soirbheas' Tattie Project is to introduce people to growing and potatoes are a great way to start!

**Come along to the Tattie Sale Day, Sat 12th March
10:30—12:30 at Craigmonie Centre.**

The Tattie Day will involve:

- A great selection of seed potatoes to buy
- Tips on growing, suitable varieties & storing your tatties
- Meeting the Glen Urquhart Horticultural Society
- Sampling some tasty alternative ways to cook tatties
- A recipe swap—bring along your favourite tattie recipes to share
- A children's activity corner.

All proceeds from sales will go towards encourage further growing projects.

Seed potatoes will also be available for sale from: Cannich, Balnain and Glen Urquhart Primary Schools.

Superfast Broadband Update

Some of you will already be enjoying the luxury of superfast broadband delivered as part of the Digital Scotland rollout. However, unfortunately for those living further than 3 km from a cabinet or on an exchange only line, Superfast Broadband is still but a dream.

In a bid to address this disparity in services in the Glens, Soirbheas has signed up to a new partnership formed with a number of other Community Councils from Ward 13 (Aird & Loch Ness). The new proposed solution will operate wirelessly and the broadband signal will be transmitted from a series of masts located throughout the catchment area. This signal will be received via a small box or dish located on or very near the customer's property. The system does not use any telephone line or other cable technology. Superfast Broadband is specified as being a minimum of 24MB.

The project is being supported by the Community Broadband Scotland team and will be modelled on the GigaPlus Argyll community project - for info: www.gigaplusargyll.co.uk/

We hope to be able to give you a timescale for anticipated delivery of the project in the Autumn newsletter.



Updates

Giving Back — Grant Awards

Since Soirbheas' grant programme was launched in April 2014 over £50 thousand of grant funding has flown back into Glen Urquhart and Strathglass



benefiting hundreds of local people and groups (see the [website](#) for details).

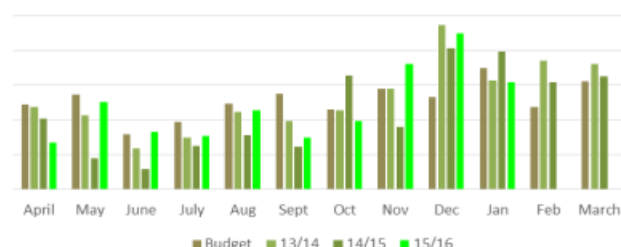


The next deadline for Tier 2 (£501 - £10,000) applications is 5th September 2016, Tier 1 (up to £500) will remain open as long as funds are available.

Coming soon....this year will see Soirbheas developing a new grant fund to support Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) for young people. There are over 80 Modern Apprenticeship training frameworks – from healthcare and financial services to construction and IT. Apprentices will develop skills and expertise for their current and future jobs; there are four different levels, some equivalent to degree level. The Apprenticeship Grant scheme should open in 2017 for applications.

Soirbheas is keen to help groups to access other funding opportunities - check out the [Funding](#) section on the website, have a chat with our Community Development Officer, Carol, for guidance or book a place at the Sourcing Funding session on 11th April!

Corrimony Wind Farm
Results in billable MWh
up to end January 2016



Corrimony escaped the worst of the storms so output was good this winter with no downtime from power cuts.

Forthcoming Soirbheas Meeting Dates

Board Meeting 28th April 7:30pm Craigmonie Centre

AGM 30th June 7:30pm Balnain Hall

Job opportunity

Soirbheas are seeking a new Treasurer to assist us as we develop.

The post will require an experienced bookkeeper to undertake the preparation of draft accounts, produce an annual budget, quarterly treasurer's report and quarterly funders reports, raising payments including grant awards and attending quarterly board meetings.

This is a paid role which is due to commence in early June 2016.

For further details, please contact carolmasheter@soirbheas.org

Closing date **30th March 2016.**

Please Join Us

Are you a Soirbheas member? Membership is free and open to anyone 12+ who is a local resident. Why membership matters? Input from the members is important; as Soirbheas evolves we need to ensure we remain in touch with what our communities need. If you are already a member, please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details.

Call for new directors - Previous board experience is not required as the necessary induction and training will be provided. Soirbheas directors are all volunteers and are expected to attend quarterly board meetings as well as development sessions, in addition to contributing skills in the area of their knowledge and experience. If you feel that your skills would help us or even if you want to contribute your time and energy towards our cause and you would like to be a part of Soirbheas' future then please contact us.

How to get in touch

Email carolmasheter@soirbheas.org,

Phone Carol Masheter, Community Development

Officer on 0751 445 2783, visit the **website**:

www.soirbheas.org or like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.