

The last year has been a busy one once again for the forum and your input has been greatly appreciated.

Decisions made by you have made a positive impact in our community and I thank you all for that.

The many aspects of the forums work in the community was there for all to see and we appreciated the acknowledgement from our peers.

We were involved in the RNLI 150th year celebrations due to the contribution made by the forum. Dr Allison Douglas spoke of the "vision" that we had in helping them and towards the production of their book, and we were invited and made very welcome at the open day at the Buckie Drifter.

On behalf of the forum I would wish them continued success on their forthcoming projects and if the forum can help in any way they only have to bring it to the table for discussion and hopefully we will be able to assist again even if only in a small way.

One of the best decisions that you have made was to agree to set up a Regen group and the report that was put up at the last meeting showed what a correct decision that was.

For example we held our first ever Continental market and

the demand has shown that this has to come back maybe even on a quarterly basis although this is now out of our hands and rests with permission being given by Moray Council.

What I personally would like to see coming in the next year is local farmers and fish markets to further footfall into our local economy.

We were also glad to lend support to the first speyside way race in many a year. The group that were organising it asked if we could support them and we were glad to. This has resulted in the forum being asked to support this event again for this year.

The Buckie Arts & Crafts group who are now a Constituted group in their own right continue to have success with their events in November last year and April this year proving to be very successful and again on behalf of the forum I am sure you would wish them continued success.

This year of course we were also successful in securing the Townhouse on a lease for forum business and events and this is being well used. Moray Council were instrumental and accommodating in this lease and I thank them for their help.

We have groups who regularly use these premises including a dance group, slimming group and we hope that Moray Council will continue to allow us to have this lease.

Another ongoing success is Radio BCK, although this is going slower than at first thought we have now a solid management group who are continuing to build. The excitement and vision that this group will undoubtedly bring has already caught the eye of the community and other groups as they may have the chance of a permanent location being offered to them and this is down to the excellent management group. Again decisions made by the forum may also help this other community group by Radio BCK working closely with them.

Another success was the rejuvenation of the already popular Buckie initials. BCK is widely known mainly due to our fishing fleet. Although the numbers are not as great as they were the initials BCK are still widely used by many. The forum brought this back into people's minds with the hugely successful BCK merchandising which includes Buckie Luggage bags, mugs, pens etc and soon a BCK 3D map and BCK umbrellas.

Later in the year saw BAF being invited to take part once again in the budget consultation. This was an excellent chance for the local grass roots community to get heavily involved in the decision making process and although eventually it was a success it would have been even more of a success if it had not been marred by some inaccurate information being fed to Moray council.

Although it was eventually quite successful in some parts hopefully Moray Council will have learned from the mistakes of the last one and if we are asked to take part later this year then I am sure if all are onboard with what grass roots involvement with the local community really means then it will I am sure be very worthwhile and productive to Moray Council and the local communities that it serves.

Once again before I finish I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you for being part of the decision making and making the forum the success that it is and hopefully will continue to be.

Also thanks must go out to our local Councillors who do a lot of unsung work behind the scenes and it often goes unnoticed. Credit where credit is due so to Anne, Anita, Joe, Gordon, Douglas, Ron and Gary thank you very much and hopefully you will continue to support the BAF.

Thanks must also go to Moray Forum and all the local forums as their guidance and backing made our voice all the stronger.

Thanks also to John Ferguson and the members of his team who provided us with the help and support when we needed it but who also took a step back when their help was not required.

Lastly you cannot have a strong successful team without strong people supporting you. So thanks to Ian Moir Alan Beresford and maybe especially to Sarah as she has stepped in and worked hard to ensure that the forum ticks along nicely. She opens and closes the Townhouse when I am unable to, she cleans it and she sees to the needs of all that use the hall so thank Sarah for all your hard work.