



The Fringe

Thursday 6th November



Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Start time	Title	Details	Duration	Organiser
10am	Our youth – Our community: Delivering innovative youth work in a rural setting.	<p>'It takes a village to raise a child' – But what if that village is Argyll?</p> <p>Hear how a rural area is taking a county-wide responsibility for developing quality youth work in a dynamic, innovative and unique way. Learn about growing your own youth workers; sports based youth work; youth leader forums; delivering a youth work PDA as part of the High School syllabus; Leadership learning programmes for young people; faith based youth work; drop-in youth cafes; community garden; networks and partnerships; statutory and voluntary sectors; therapeutic youth work and issue-based youth work; employment opportunities; informal educators; and so much more</p> <p>Our young people and their challenges - our communities and our response.</p>	2hr	Neil Matheson
10am	The role of cultural activities in rural Scotland	<p>In this interactive workshop, Dalriada Arts & Culture will explore the role of cultural activities in rural Scotland and look at how the arts can play a vital role in community life.</p> <p>What do we think of when we talk about culture? How does it relate to community empowerment and a sense of place? How can we make the arts relevant to everyone? What role will the Scottish Rural Parliament have?</p> <p>Dalriada Arts & Culture is a Mid Argyll based charity currently developing proposals for a number of arts projects across the region.</p>	1hr	Dalriada
11am	Meeting housing needs creatively,	Two local housing authorities outline their successful and innovative approaches to addressing Argyll's complex housing needs.	1hr	West Highland Housing Association

	sustainably and with communities	<p>West Highland Housing Association is a small rural Housing Association with properties throughout Oban, Lorn and the Isles. It has a commitment to working in the most rural and fragile communities of its area providing high quality housing. Through development of housing West Highland always try to develop positive relationships with community groups in the areas that they are working in.</p> <p>Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is a Registered Social Landlord providing over 5000 affordable homes for rent. We have houses across 11 islands and in every major settlement in Argyll and Bute. ACHA is a community led organisation directed by a voluntary Board of Management supported by Area Committees.</p> <p>Projects include: Development of biomass district heating schemes both for new build and retrofit; Community growing schemes;</p> <p>Assisting communities where they want to develop their own solutions; HOME Argyll, a Common Housing Register, which lets applicants fill in only one form to apply for a home from any of the Housing Associations.</p>		Argyll Community Housing Association
11am	Why the need for reliable information about wind energy production is so important	The workshop will endeavour to give up to date information in respect of the engineering and health issues associated with this technology.	1 1/2hr	Christine Metcalf
12.15pm	Improving the effectiveness of governance	<p>One way to make a difference!</p> <p>The boards of many organisations (public bodies, private companies and third sector) would make better decisions if they had more diversity of thought and experience around the board table. Their decisions impact our rural communities.</p> <p>How can we change the chemistry in the boardroom? What does it take to be a non-executive director? Why is diversity of thought important? Why should you consider a board role? How can you find out about applying for non-executive directorships? What support is out there for you?</p>	1hr	Tanya Castell, Changing the Chemistry

12.15pm	Transport: Are we nearly there yet?	Best practice and our journey from frustration at the lack of suitable public transport for our members of FADAP (Falkirk Area Disability Access Panel) to the development of a Community Transport Association	1hr	Sonia Maclay, Falkirk Area Disability Access Panel
12.15pm	Creating a Community Hub: the Atlantic Islands Centre on the Isle of Luing.	The Centre will open on the Isle of Luing in Argyll in Spring 2015 and will create a community hub and visitor attraction which will feature heritage and arts exhibitions related to all the main Argyll Islands, a café restaurant and workspaces which will help to sustain a fragile rural community and to reverse its population decline.	1hr	Norman Bissell, Isle of Luing Community Trust
12.15pm	What are the key issues for young people in rural communities?	Identifying the challenges facing young people in rural areas and actions to overcome these challenges.	2hr	Bridie Ashrowan, YouthBorders & Steve Wright, Connect Berwickshire
1.30pm	Healthy Options – A rural community response to local health needs	<p>What is the way forward for community health initiatives?</p> <p>Almost 40% of people in our community are considered to have chronic health conditions. These are our work colleagues, friends, neighbours, relatives, and family members. Shocking as that statistic is the positive message is that these conditions can be improved or control managed by adopting an active healthy lifestyle. The community considered this to be unacceptable for the quality of so many people’s lives to be diminished in this way especially when we realised that a big part of the solution lay within the community.</p> <p>That was our challenge – to improve the wellbeing of ‘our 40%’ and for Oban and Lorn to become a more active, fitter, healthier community.</p> <p>Hear about the challenges, innovative solutions and successes - as well as setbacks, and discuss the way forward for community health initiatives.</p>	2hr	Neil Matheson, Atlantis Leisure Centre
1.30pm	Community Empowerment	Who should we include as statutory consultees in the planning process e.g. access panels - community representative, young people, others?	1hr	Sonia Maclay, Falkirk Area Disability Access Panel

1.30pm	The Right Tree in the Right Place: Communities and the forestry sector working together to meet Scottish Government's targets for woodland expansion	<p>The Scottish Government has set a target of achieving 10,000 Ha of new woodland per annum for the next 10 years in order to meet both carbon reduction targets and the needs of a growing timber and forestry sector which now employs over 10,000 people in rural Scotland. This will mean land use change in many rural areas and we would like to hear your views on how this can be achieved.</p> <p>This short workshop will explore the different benefits delivered by forestry, rural communities' attitudes to land use change and start to identify how the forestry sector can work with communities to achieve government targets.</p>	1hr	Amanda Bryan, Aigas Associates
1.30pm	Land reform	A radical perspective on land reform with Lesley Riddoch	1hr	Lesley Riddoch
2.45pm	Young people and employability in rural areas	Telling the story about a group of young people doing a six month employability project with elderly volunteers from the maritime industry. They rebuilt and restored a 90 year old 7.5 tonne fishing vessel which is now pride of place in Eyemouth Harbour.	40min	Steve Wright, Connect Berwickshire Youth Project
2.45pm	Onshore gas exploration and extraction: implications for rural communities.	<p>The Department of Energy & Climate Change is currently offering up large areas of Scotland for auction, including a broad central swathe from East to West coasts, and a significant area of South West Scotland, for onshore oil and gas exploration. The hope is that gas can be extracted from deep underground, either from coalbed methane or shale deposits. However, this technology has proved highly controversial elsewhere.</p> <p>In addition to persuasive evidence that it creates significant environmental and public health threats, is likely to be damaging to other rural businesses, and lead to major industrialisation. And yet politicians assure us that "robust Regulatory systems" will protect Scottish people and places.</p> <p>Hear about one small rural community's experience.</p>	1hr	Lorraine Frew, Canonbie Residents Association
2.45pm	What skills are needed in rural areas?	Is Education in rural areas being neglected, one might argue that while we have <i>Rural Education</i> in traditional land based skills, and <i>Rural Education</i> where education policy and practice are adapted for a rural context. The workshop asks participants to consider whether present provision is sufficient to meet the aspirations of rural communities.	1hr	Ronald Macintyre, Open University
2.45pm	Are the Scottish uplands fulfilling their ecological, social and	The uplands make up 70% of Scotland's land area. They are often characterised as un-productive but have they always been, and do they have to be, like this?	1hr	Helen Armstrong, Reforesting Scotland & Kate Holbrook

	economic potential?	In this workshop we will look at past, and current, land use and abuse in the uplands and consider potential future scenarios. We will use Norway as an example of a country where environmental conditions are similar but the state of the land and the uses to which is put, are quite different.		
4pm	Low Impact Cargo Transport and West Coast Shipping - Examining positive responses to a changing climate	Western Scotland's potential as a marine transport Hub and reintroducing sail to transport on the west coast of Scotland. Rapid changes will occur in shipping with the opening up of the northern passages putting the western highlands and Islands in a strategic placement. Are we prepared to take advantage of this?"	1hr	Madadh MacLain, Fair Winds Trust
4pm	Community access to funding – shaping future support	An opportunity to shape the future provision of support to help communities track down and successfully apply for funding for local projects. Consultants Rocket Science are advising the Scottish Government on how best to support communities. They are keen to understand: What has been your experience of seeking and using support? What kind of information and support do you need? Where are the current gaps in support – or difficulties in reaching and using it? Contribute your insights and experience and help to make sure that finding and gaining funding is as straightforward as possible.	1hr	Rocket Science
4pm	Refreshing Scotland's Land Use Strategy	Getting the best for our land – Scotland's first Land Use Strategy is being reviewed and there will be a public consultation on a revised draft in 2015. An opportunity to speak directly to the Scottish Government team working on the new strategy and to give them your views on what is important for the future of land use in Scotland.	1hr	Zoe Kemp, Scottish Government