



NEWS RELEASE

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SCF APPOINT NEW CHAIR

The Scottish Crofting Federation appointed their new Chair, Eleanor Arthur, at their AGM held on Saturday 5th June in Balmacara.

In her address to the assembled gathering, the young Shetland woman said "It is a great honour, but also a considerable responsibility to represent the SCF Board and membership. Over the last decade each new chair has been confronted with big crofting issues and this time is no different with reform of crofting legislation, the inquiry into future support for agriculture in Scotland and the whole reformation of European rural policy. Common to all issues is the continuing up-hill struggle to get crofting understood by the policy makers. The only way I see crofters having a voice and influence in Edinburgh, London and Brussels is for them to gather together under one banner and be big enough to be heard – we need numbers. The SCF provides this banner and it is very heartening to see that SCF membership is increasing, that crofters are joining and so making the SCF stronger and more representative. My intention is that the SCF continue to listen to its membership, to represent crofters effectively, and build on the good reputation it already holds nationally and internationally."

Ms Arthur hails from the Shetland Isle of Whalsay where she has been crofting about 30 acres, keeping native / cross sheep and Shetland kye. She has been prominent in re-establishing the Shetland cattle breed and chairs the Shetland Cattle from Shetland Breeders' Group. She also chaired the group responsible for the production a book on the history of the breed and its place in Shetland crofting culture.

Ms Arthur concluded with thanks to the out-going chair Neil MacLeod for having served his two year term of office with great commitment to the SCF and to crofting.

END

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Notes to editors

- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>