

FIRST CALL FOR SCF ANNUAL GATHERING 2017

SCF will hold its 2017 Annual Gathering, with the theme ***Crofting's Place in Europe***, on 10th and 11th March, noon to noon, in Applecross, Wester Ross. The event aims to set a crofting agenda for the upcoming Brexit negotiations and a post-Brexit agricultural policy that is fit for crofting.

The importance of the topic is reflected in the attendance of two members of the Scottish Government Cabinet. On Friday the Cabinet Secretary responsible for crofting, Mr Fergus Ewing MSP, will officially open the gathering with an address placing crofting in the context of Scotland's rural development. On Saturday Dr Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, will open the day and the session on generating priorities for the Brexit agenda.

Among other speakers will be Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, author of the book *New Peasantries* and longstanding researcher on rural development and small farmers; Gwyn Jones, from the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism; and a speaker from the European Coordination La Via Campesina, who will address the need for food sovereignty. A crofter will give a view on perceived implications of Brexit on crofting and will be joined by a small-farmer representative from Sweden.

As in previous events organised by SCF, there will be space for grass-root views and perspectives – the 'voice from the fank'. Group discussions on Saturday morning will be organised to generate action points and prioritise the issues that Scottish Government should be pressing for on behalf of crofters, crofting and Scotland.

The full programme will be available on the SCF website shortly.

Location: the venue is Hartfield House, Applecross.

Time: from lunch to lunchtime, Friday 10 - Saturday 11 March. *The programme will start at 2pm sharp but gathering will be from noon on.*

Registration: there will be no registration fee; however, places will be limited so you do have to register with maria@crofting.org.

Food: Sustenance will be provided.

Accommodation: please organise your own accommodation in Applecross or the surrounding area.

Car Sharing: it worked well at the successful gathering in Glencanisp and SCF can help again with car sharing. Do let us know your travel needs or offers and we will help you to get to Applecross.

For all questions, further information or suggestions: email maria@crofting.org.



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