



NEWS RELEASE

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FEDERATION GATHERING TO EXPLORE CROFTING'S ROLE IN A SUSTAINABLE SCOTLAND

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) will hold its Gathering this November in Fort William on the theme "Revival: crofting and its role in the future of a sustainable Scotland".

Chief executive Patrick Krause said, "There is a debate ongoing in Scotland, and especially in the Highlands and Islands, which concerns land use and management. This has been driven by response to the climate and nature emergencies and targets which will involve land-use change and associated ambitions for peatland restoration, tree planting and biodiversity restoration. There are also imminent changes to agriculture support which aim to deliver 'regenerative agriculture'. Crofters need to know more about this and policymakers need to know more about how crofters are contributing."

The event will be held lunchtime to lunchtime on 18th and 19th November in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William. Participants should register online at <https://www.crofting.org/upcoming-events/> or contact the SCF office on 01599 530005.

Mr Krause continued, "We have a lively and diverse programme lined up including hot topics such as "The Wild Bunch – rewilding and people"; "Reforestation – trees for people"; "Back to the Future – traditional practices for a sustainable future"; "Land Reform and Repopulation"; "Cultural Revival - language and traditions"; "Community Land Ownership"; "Crofters of the future: new techniques for achieving low carbon crofting"; and "The local food economy".

"We will also be recognising the future of crofting by presenting the Young Crofter Award at the Gathering. Nominations are closing on 30th October so if you know someone who inspires you give them the chance to win this prestigious award, a commemorative quaich and £500."

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The Gathering is supported by Prince's Countryside Fund. The Young Crofter Award is supported by the MacRobert Trust.