

# Furnace Press



*Lochfyneside Community  
Newsletter December 2020*



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FURNACE

### INSIDE:

- ◆ Furnace Stores Christmas Opening
- ◆ Bin Calendar 2021
- ◆ Christmas Greetings
- ◆ Review of the Year
- ◆ News and more.....

It's been a while since the last Furnace Press and it will probably be a while until the next one, but we couldn't let this most unusual year go by without an FP to remember it by.

So here's your FP Special 2020 commemorative issue with a look at how Furnace has drawn on it's community spirit, it's stunning environment and the caring and generosity of its residents to help everyone cope with the Covid-19 pandemic and the changes it has brought about.

In the midst of all the bad news, there have been lots of good things happening here. So Merry Christmas Furnace and let's all raise a glass to a happy, healthy and peaceful 2021.



Suitably masked and socially distanced, the Furnace spirit was much in evidence this year as we found ways to come together as a community for occasions that mean a lot to us.

The Christmas lights switch on and the Furnace Craft Day were made extra special by all the people who took part and decorated their own home to the delight of those walking round the village.

There was a great turn out too for Remembrance Day, when Furnace School pupils helped make the link between past present and future. A new tradition we hope.



Douglas and Alma Smylie wish all their friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Happy Christmas to all my friends and neighbours



with Best Wishes for the New Year



Edith MacKellar



Despite the challenges of 2020, may you all enjoy good health, happiness, joy and inner peace

Barbara and Wilf Stout



Wising all "Furnatians" A Very Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year

Ruth and Paul

# FURNACE BIN COLLECTIONS 2021

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## FURNACE STORES CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES



MONDAY	21 DECEMBER	8.00AM–5.30PM
TUESDAY	22 DECEMBER	8.00AM–5.30PM
WENESDAY	23 DECEMBER	8.00AM-12 NOON
THURSDAY	24 DECEMBER	8.00AM–1PM
FRIDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	BOXING DAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	27 DECEMBER	9.00AM–1PM
MONDAY	28 DECEMBER	9.00AM-1PM
TUESDAY	29 DECEMBER	9.00AM –5.30PM
WEDNESDAY	30 DECEMBER	9.00AM-5.30PM
THURSDAY	HOGMANAY	9.00AM-1PM
FRIDAY	NEW YEARS DAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	2 JANUARY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	3 JANUARY	9.00AM-1PM
MONDAY	4 JANUARY	9.00AM-1PM
TUESDAY	5 JANUARY	9.00-5.30PM



## MEET RAB, THE CHEEKY WEE ROBIN



Rab waits for his coconut—  
photo by Vi

Early into the summer, residents of Queen Elizabeth began to notice a wee brown bird taking an unusual amount of interest in what they were doing in the garden.

Every day he would come to visit and soon began to take an open door as an invitation. He could be found hopping down the hallway or standing in the sitting room—seemingly unaware of the resident cats and dogs. We guessed he was a robin, and sure enough, he began to grow red feathers on his breast.

But he has his favourites, and adopted Vi and Norrie as his family—probably because they feed him coconut on demand. And demand he does, flapping around Vi if he so much as hears her voice.





*Happy Solstice  
Merry Christmas*

*And a Happy and Peaceful New  
Year*

*Lynda, Moss and Tribble*

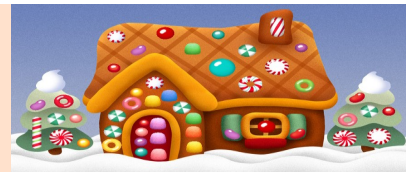


*Wishing all our friends  
A Merry Christmas and  
A Good New Year*

*Adele, David,  
& Family*



**WARMEST SEASON'S  
GREETINGS AND  
BEST WISHES FOR THE  
FUTURE TO EVERYONE  
IN FURNACE  
FROM ANDY AND LYNDA  
HENDERSON**



*Merry Christmas to all in Furnace and  
thanks to everyone who helped during  
these Covid times.*

*Happy New Year and keep safe*

*John and Sue Campbell  
Powder Mills B&B*

## FUNDING NEWS

### HALL

Work is due to start soon on sprucing up the Village Hall. Furnace Community SCIO have been awarded a grant of over £12,000 from the An Suidhe Windfarm Trust to repair and paint the Hall.

### GREEN GYM

Foundation Scotland, who manage the grant, has also agreed to carry over funding from last year which was awarded to the SCIO for a "green gym", but has been unable to progress due to Covid restrictions. One to look forward to.

### MICROGRANTS

Windfarm funding is also available for groups or individuals in the Village towards projects which benefit the community. Past awards have gone to the Bowling Club, Keep Well Furnace and funded a First Aid course.

**Grants of up to £250 are available  
through Furnace Community Council.**

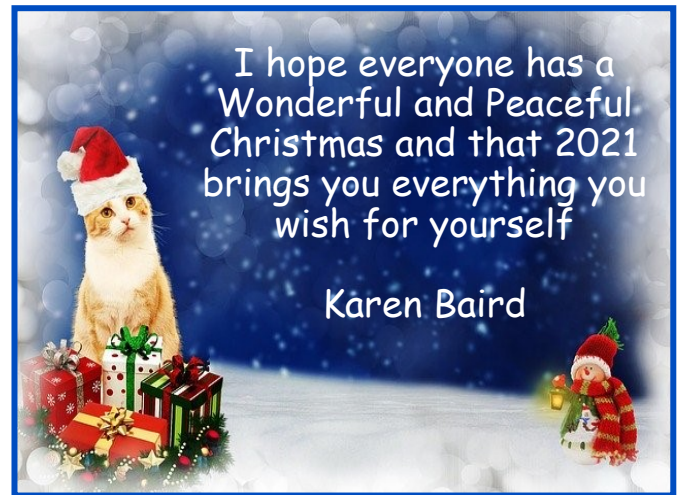
## HAVE COVID RESTRICTIONS LED TO POSITIVE CHANGES ?

Local resident, Lynda Henderson, has shared a list of some of the things that she has taken pleasure from over the past year:


- the silence of the first lockdown - with virtually no traffic on the roads;
- the delight of the blossoming of the cherry tree at the entrance to the village
- the strangeness of West Coast Motors buses coming through Furnace with never a soul onboard apart from the driver;
- the pleasure of meeting people out walking, stopping at a safe distance and having real conversations
- the instant recoil from seeing crowds of people close together in TV shows made pre-Covid;
- the enjoyment of the sounds of children having fun in the road outside, playing football on the green, becoming impressively athletic on trampolines...
- the fantastic weather from start to finish of the first lockdown
- living in a community where people keep a lookout for each other;
- learning to take pleasure in actually doing daily household chores - and weeding.
- experimenting with new foods and spices







### Have You seen PC "Speedy" yet?



He's been busy working at different locations around the village and is having a positive effect by making road users think & if necessary adjust their speed as they travel past him.

He's only 'on duty' during daylight hours and we take him in each night - not because he's frightened of the dark but because we can't afford to pay him overtime!

If you know of a location where you would like him to visit then please email Speedy at: [ccinfur@gmail.com](mailto:ccinfur@gmail.com)

### FURNACE FRIDAY ONLINE QUIZ

Next Quiz  
Friday 8 January 2021  
7.30pm

To join, email:  
[everythingfurnace@gmail.com](mailto:everythingfurnace@gmail.com)

### FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Online meeting  
Thursday  
28 January 2021  
7.30pm

To join, email  
[ccinfur@gmail.com](mailto:ccinfur@gmail.com)  
for a Zoom invite

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**FROM  
FURNACE  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

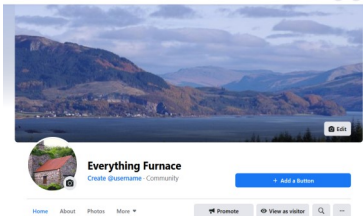


**Thank you for all your  
custom and all the best for  
2021**

**David and Cindy MacInnes**

## **TECHNOLOGY—AN UNSUNG HERO?**

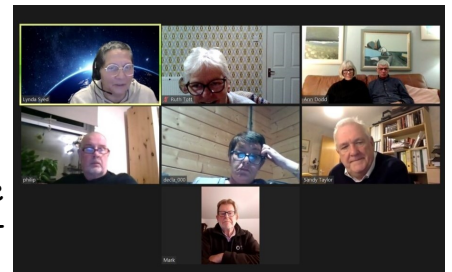
Love it or hate it, Facebook has been an invaluable source of information, particularly back in March and April at the start of Lockdown, when things were changing literally by the hour.



From what we were allowed to do and not do to which shops were open, how to get deliveries and help, to when bins would be collected, our Everything Furnace Facebook page brought very local news into the home.

And for those who don't subscribe, there were always people willing to make a phone call to make sure no-one was left out.

As it became clear that we were in for the long haul, we turned to Zoom to enable people to get together for meetings and fun—important especially for those living alone.



The Community Council and the SCIO continue to meet online and the Famous Furnace Friday Quiz is happening every fortnight.

Being able to see people in real time makes a huge difference, especially when important decisions have to be taken. Anyone with internet access is able to join in .

Many people have been using downtime during the pandemic to get things sorted and one task that has long needed tackling is the Furnace website.



Rebranded as Everything Furnace, the website is a repository for loads of information about Furnace—it's history, places to stay, the minutes of Community Council and SCIO meetings, past and future events and—coming soon— digitised copies of the Furnace Press dating back to 2006.

Find it at: [www.furnace-argyll.org](http://www.furnace-argyll.org)

**If you would like to take advantage of these online services, but feel unsure about how to go about it, do get in touch with the Council's Community Learning folk—TEL: 01546 604659**

**Or, if you are already online but don't know how to use Zoom, for example, get in touch with Lynda Syed, who can help with this.**



The superstar hero of the past year has to be the place where we live. Our stunning environment has allowed us to enjoy the freedom and see the beauty that others, sadly, can only dream of.



**Amazing mornings,  
stunning sunsets.**



**Trees that grow their own Christmas  
decorations**

So let's all raise a glass this Christmas in a salute to all our unsung heroes:

To those we have lost  
To our NHS  
To our delivery folk  
To our shop keepers  
To our care workers  
To our volunteers  
To our environment  
To technology  
To our community spirit  
To every single one of us that's struggled our way through 2020

**Here's to 2021  
Slainte Mhath!**



This issue of the Furnace Press was produced by Furnace Community Council