



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CROMAR FUTURE GROUP**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER : SC047033**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**CHARITY NAME :** CROMAR FUTURE GROUP

**OTHER NAMES USED :** Future Group, CFG & Everything Electronic Youth Club

**CHARITY NUMBER : SC047033** The charity is constituted as a SCIO. Its principal address is :  
Reekitlane, Coull, Tarland, Aboyne, AB34 4TR

### **LIST OF CURRENT TRUSTEES AND THEIR OFFICES :**

The Trustees are David Ellis, Lesley Ellis, Barbara Warren, David Harper, Sandra van Heusden.

Previous Trustee Jim McLean stood down as a Trustee due to additional work because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on schools.

The minimum number of trustees is three and the maximum number is eleven. Applications for potential trustees (individuals over 16 years and corporate bodies) who support the aim and goals of the charity are welcomed. Trustees are recruited from the charity's active volunteers or by invitation. New trustees are appointed by the Board. No external organisation has a special role in the appointment of trustees.

### **OFFICE BEARERS :**

**Convener :** David Ellis

**Treasurer :** Lesley Ellis

**Secretary :** Sandra van Heusden

### **CHARITABLE PURPOSES :**

1. The advancement of scientific and technological education
2. The advancement of science
3. In furtherance of these objects, our activities will include:
  - 3.1 making science and technology talks and activities available locally, either provided by ourselves or by our partners
  - 3.2 promoting science and technology locally and facilitating contacts between educators, researchers and the local Community
  - 3.3 promoting the establishment of after-school and adult science and technology clubs

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES :**

The Charity's activities focus on the school year except that we operate from September to June, allowing a slightly longer summer break for our tutors. Our activities were progressing as normal in advance of the Coronavirus pandemic and we were running two after school science clubs, one at Strathdon and one at Tarland prior to the lockdown.

Our innovative youth club Everything Electronics which focusses on learning digital skills in a fun Club atmosphere, was going from strength to strength and one of our trustees, Mrs. Ellis won the 2020 Scottish Youth Volunteer Award of the Year for STEM and Digital in recognition of this initiative.

We started our Mad March Science Festival with plans for several weekend events and to visit 14 local primary schools with our individual hands on science session which this year was on forces. We completed the weekend family science Festival in Strathdon and Tarland and the first week of the school visits, when we called a halt to all face to face activity. We were concerned about the rise in coronavirus cases given that all our tutors were deemed vulnerable. Full national lockdown was implemented just over a week later.

Given that we are a technically based organisation, we took Everything Electronics on-line immediately, without missing a week. This meant we were the only local youth organisation operating during the first lockdown, we were also one of the few code clubs nationally that operated as normal throughout the year. We were able to do this as we own a bank of laptops and could loan out a computer if members needed one. (Code Clubs operating out of Local Authority libraries and schools were unable to access the computers they normally used.)

Our members' parents were very grateful for this as we were the only part of their children's lives which continued to operate routinely as before and give some semblance of normality. We adapted our activities to ensure that they still had the choice of a mix of activities, and during the run up to the summer break, entered a number of competitions organised by Rapid Electronics, which our members excelled in.

Tutors from our Everything Electronic Youth Club were instrumental to setting up a robust system and help line for the Community Help initiative which provided information and the delivery of groceries and other essentials to those who were shielding.

Once school activities were reinstated, we also offered loan of a computer to anyone locally who needed it and gave one of our older computers to a youngster in need of one.

We restarted as normal in the autumn but remained on-line as we still could not operate the Club face to face due to the vulnerability of our tutors. Some of our members entered the nationwide annual Brebus coding competition and all were in top category for their age group.

Once again, one of our members was a joint winner of the 2020 International CoderDojo Competition for his age group, sharing it with a winner from Japan.

In the autumn, two of our members took part in the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's VIBE workshop. One of these has gone on to become our tutor in digital music.

With the help of a local artist, we have developed a section on digital art skills which proved popular with our members, and we provided expertise on using the Scratch art facilities to improve Scratch games and animations, to both our own Meet and Code on-line event and one run by a group in Wales.

At the end of the year, one of our tutors attended the Keep Scotland Beautiful and Screen Scotland training in filmmaking to improve our ability to hand on these skills to the members.

The Charity is supported by grants and donations and all activities are free to members. The charity spends its money on materials for use in hands-on activities; equipment including suitable computers and monitors for use in small group tutoring and hands-on digital skills development; hall hire when operating in a hall; specialised professional tutors when necessary and professional level software to support our activities. Administrative spending is for accounts software and insurance and first aid training.

**RESERVES AND DEFICITS :**

The Charity plans not to maintain reserves except as necessary to fund cash flow for day to day activities. The Charity does not plan to run an annual deficit, but this may occur in some financial years where confirmed donations or grants have not yet been received by year end.

**VOLUNTEERS**

The charity is dependent on volunteers for the delivery of most of its activities and routine programmes. For events such as the Mad March Science Festival, then professional organisations may be used to deliver specific events. Volunteers donate their time and they pay their own expenses. The Charity reimburses any training costs that are incurred with its agreement.

The Charity also receives donated equipment from time to time at no cost.

**SIGNATURES :** David Ellis \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Dave Harper \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_