**The Future of SLEF?**

It is now over 20 years since SLEF was formed. Initially it was a very active group, and successfully undertook a lot of project work and networking with other natural history groups in the area. However, over the years the number of active members has been declining, and SLEF is now at a crossroads. At this AMM, 2 of our longstanding Trustees are standing down, leaving only 4 remaining. Although this is enough under our constitution to continue, without also having a base of active members to support us, further decline is inevitable. In these times of biodiversity crises, climate changes, and the various threats to the natural history of Skye and Lochalsh, it would be very sad if SLEF went the way of the Skye branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. This eventually had to close due to a lack of membership and support. We do not want this to happen but need your support to prevent it.

We have tried to increase engagement. A YouTube channel with videos was launched, social media revamped, and a quarterly newsletter is now sent to members with nature news from around the area. We are also very lucky to have been given support from Fauna and Flora, who have offered us help from their Community Support Specialist. We are hoping that this will help us to refocus our priorities and revitalise the group.

If you would like to see SLEF continue and flourish, then please consider joining us as a Trustee. You do not need any specific experience or knowledge, just an interest in natural history and some enthusiasm. Or join in with our field trips or mammal courses and gain new knowledge and meet like-minded people. Or offer to help in any other way you can. Alternatively, if you have any suggestions as to how we can reenergise SLEF, or what would tempt you to volunteer, then please contact us on [info@slef.org.uk](mailto:info@slef.org.uk), or phone Roger on 01471 833325.

Thank you

SLEF TRUSTEES