

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

July 2022 Issue Number: 35

THE HIGHLAND GATHERING... ARE YOU COMING?



CHAIR'S REPORT

This will be my final Chair's report as I step down in the role to have baby number 4. I reluctantly stepped into the role of Chair, but have enjoyed my time volunteering alongside the whole team at SFCT. It has been great to see how the organisation has improved and grown over the past few years, now employing many local people allowing more capacity to get things done and help all of our wonderful community groups.

The CAP steering groups are still in action, discussing how to take projects forward and doing essential work behind the scenes and preparing for projects they wish to take forward. I'm sure this year we will see many plans come to fruition thanks to community members who are enthusiastic enough to drive these things forward. If you wish to be involved then please get in touch.

The projects that excite me, that I will continue to be involved in as a Director, are the Wildside Centre - a great

community hub with huge potential to cater for many wishes in the area. The next steps for our steering group are to reveal and share some visuals of our long term plan for the building, alongside maintenance and upgrade of the existing building (including storage solutions!). We hope to develop another outside gathering/seating area that was suggested by many groups that use the building and also create a play area to the rear of the building. Details of our next steering group meeting will be shared soon and anyone who has an interest is welcome to come along and help us move forward.

Childcare solutions and playparks were 2 things that rated as important consideration within our community and something that I'm keen to move forward. A consultation is being coordinated to help drive this and get more detailed feedback about what you would like to see in our community. This has been started by the Community Life action group and if you would like to help organise or be kept up to date please get in touch with myself or Sharon Ferguson.



I enjoy being a Director, being involved with different projects, listening to the community and making things happen. If you are considering being a Director on our Board, please get in touch to find out more as we are always on the lookout to welcome more people aboard!

Kirsty Balfour,
Chair, S&FCT

TRIBUTES

The Stratherrick and Foyers news magazine is planned for the autumn.

If the family or friends of any of those who have recently passed-away wish to submit a story about their lives as a tribute to their memory, please contact Caroline at strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk

Meantime we send our condolences to the friends and family of the following local people who have recently died.

Norrie Matheson, Ruthven, who many will remember as the former cook at Stratherrick Primary School.

Joan White who moved to Newlands, Errogie in recent years.

Heather Parrott (Heather Macleod) at the Old School, Errogie who was a former director of the Community Trust and friend to many.

Maureen Craven of Craven Cottage, Whitebridge who passed away in May 2022.

Alan Findlay who lived in Dores and was Chair of the South Loch Ness Heritage Group.




HIGHLAND GATHERING

AT CORRIEGARTH ESTATE

A Summer Celebration of our Stratherrick and Foyers Communities

SATURDAY 23RD JULY 2022 • 12PM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY



INVERNESS ROYAL LEGION PIPE BAND • FALCONRY DISPLAY
HIGHLAND DANCING • DOG SHOW • SHEEP SHEARING
VINTAGE MACHINERY • HILL RACE • FUN RACES FOR ALL THE FAMILY
BOUNCY CASTLE • KIDS ART • BAKING • CRAFT STANDS
JAM MAKING AND FLOWER ARRANGING COMPETITIONS
BBQ AND BAR • TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES
COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL BE THERE!

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

We look forward to seeing you at our first community Highland Gathering at Corriegarth Estate on Saturday 23rd July! It is shaping up to be a fantastic day out for all the family, whether you want to show off your creative side by entering one of our competitions, take part in the dog show or the races, or simply come down and see what our community has to offer, there is something happening to suit all ages.

You can keep up to date with all the activities happening on the day by visiting our web page - www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/highland-gathering/

If you are a local business or a member of a community group and would like to get involved, please get in touch - pc@sfctrust.org.uk

We would also like to thank the local businesses who have shown their support, with more to be confirmed:

AABA BOUNCY CASTLES
CALUM MARTIN PRODUCTION SERVICES
CHERYL HEGGIE SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCING
D-LISH BAGS
FUNKY FACES FACE PAINTING
HUNTLY FALCONRY
JINTY'S JAMS
KATE'S WOODY WONDERS
KINDNESS GLASS
LYNE MHOR CROFT
MIELE'S ICE CREAM
THE NEIL MACKENZIE TRUST

We are pleased that a number of our community groups are involved in the event - please come along for a chat and learn more about what they have to offer:

BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE
CAIRNGORMS MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM
FOYERS FIRE BRIGADE
LOCH NESS RURAL COMMUNITIES
SOUP TO GO
SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP
SPIN & CHATTER
STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST
STRATHERRICK GUN CLUB
STRATHERRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
STRATHNAIRN FARMERS ASSOCIATION
WILDSIDE TODDLER GROUP

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

MAIN RING

TIME SLOT	ACTIVITY
12.00 – 12.10	Opening show and welcome
12.10 – 12.20	Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band
12.20 – 12.40	Highland Dancing Display by Cheryl Heggie Dance School
12.40 – 13.00	Falconry display by Huntly Falconry
13.00 – 14.00	Races/ welly wanging
14.00 – 14.20	Tug of War/ Pull the Tractor
14.20 – 14.40	Vintage vehicle display
14.40 – 14.50	Fire brigade demo
14.50 – 15.10	Falconry display by Huntly Falconry
15.10 – 15.30	Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band
15.30 – 15.40	Highland Dancing Display by Cheryl Heggie Dance School
15.40 – 15.50	Mass strip the Willow
15.50 – 16.00	Prizegiving
16.00	CLOSE

RING 2 - DOG SHOW

Organised by Gill Gray, Judge - Aimee Williamson
Please note that these times are an estimate only.

TIME SLOT	ACTIVITY
12.00 – 13.00	Registration
13.00 – 14.00	Pedigree Categories
14.00 – 15.00	Novelty Categories
16.00	CLOSE



Please note that the information in this section of the newsletter and on the included flyer is subject to change

THINGS TO TAKE PART IN:

COMPANION DOG SHOW

Bring your dogs along to join in the fun! We are hosting a companion dog show, with categories for all breeds (pedigree and non-pedigree), ages and sizes. Register your entries from 12 noon on the field, with judging starting at 1pm. It is £1 to enter and proceeds are going to Munloch Animal Aid.

Categories as follows:

PEDIGREE – Any variety puppy (aged 6-12 months), Any variety Sporting dogs (Terriers, Gundogs and Hounds), Any variety Non-Sporting dogs (Working, Pastoral, Toy, Utility breeds), Any variety Open. Best in show and Reserve best in show will be selected from the unbeaten dogs.

NOVELTY - Best cross breed, Dog with the waggiest tail, Dog the judge would most like to take home, Junior handler 8 - 16 years



COMPANION DOG SHOW!

- **£1 per class**
- **Rosettes to 5th**
- **Best in Show**
- **Reserve Best in Show**
- **Best Puppy in show**
- **Entries from 12 noon, Judging commences at 1:00pm**



COMPETITIONS

Show off your creative side! The following competitions will be running at the event – all entries must be received by 1pm, judging will take place at 2pm.

ART (UNDER 12'S ONLY): Painted stone with a nature theme, Decorated or painted jam jar

FLOWER ARRANGING: A jam jar of flowers (under 16's), A compact table decoration (adults over 16)

HOME BAKING: A decorated Victoria Sponge cake (adults), 4 cup cakes (under 16's)

PRESERVES (Adults only): A jar of raspberry jam, a jar of chutney of your choice

There will be prizes for the winners of each category and rosettes for those placed 1-3

For more information on any of the above, please visit our dedicated web page - www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/highland-gathering/

We are always looking for volunteers to help set-up, on the day, or take-down afterwards. If you can spare a couple of hours please get in touch with tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk.

We also need wellies! Do you have any lying around that you don't use/ need any more? All sizes and colours welcome! Please contact Caroline by emailing pc@sfctrust.org.uk and she will arrange collection.

RACES

If you're feeling active, why not sign up for one (or more!) of the races! There is something for everyone – all ages and fitness levels.

You can choose from: 100m dash, sack race, parent and child relay, 3km hill race, and don't forget welly wanging.

Register on the field by 12.30pm, races start at 1pm.

Highland Gathering at Corriegarth Estate



Site Plan

1. Sheep shearing demo
2. Sheep Pens
3. Falconry Display by Huntly Falconry
4. Loch Ness Rural Communities
5. Stratherrick Clay Target Club
6. Heritage Marquee - South Loch Ness Heritage Group, Spinning with Spin & Chatter, Strathnairn Farmers
7. Vintage Vehicle Display
8. **Main Show Ring**
9. Crafters Market
10. Miele's Ice Cream
11. Bar
12. BBQ
13. Tea, Coffee & Cake with Soup 2 Go / Competitions
14. Boleskine Community Care
15. Event HQ, Raffle, Lost Property and First Aid
16. Parking
17. Dedicated Crossing Point
18. Toilets
19. Dog Show
20. Cairngorm Mountain Rescue
21. Funky Faces Face Painting
22. Parent Council
23. Bouncy Castle
24. Stratherrick & Foyers Fire and Rescue
25. Fly Fishing Demonstrations
26. Hill Race

INTRODUCING CHRIS BALLANCE - HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR FOR AIRD & LOCH NESS

My name is Chris Ballance, and I am honoured to be the first ever Scottish Green Party councillor elected for this area. To those who voted for me, thank you very much! I'm somewhat overawed by the responsibility this places on me, and I hope I will repay your trust over the following 5 years.

If you have suggestions for greening Stratherrick, improving the lives of local people, particularly those in poverty, please email me. I'm very aware that current economic policies are putting a huge strain on incomes. I've met people working in the care sector who already don't have enough income to put food into their children's mouths – I shudder to think what the coming few years has in store, after a decade of austerity as official UK government policy.

As to me: I live near Drumadrochit – on the other side of the Loch. I'm sorry! I know all four ward councillors are from the "other side" and Stratherrick is under-represented, so do please get in touch. I'm married with two children at Glen Urquhart High School, and a rescue dog, a cheerful mongrel called Snoopy. My wife is a story-teller who believes that the traditional Scottish stories, and Gaelic song, have lessons to teach us about living with nature.

We moved to the Highlands to look after my ageing in-laws; previously we lived in Dumfries-shire where we set up and ran a social enterprise creating work opportunities for people in green collar jobs, such as recycling, re-use, and food growing. Before my election to the Council I was working as a social researcher, conducting surveys for government and charities on areas like health, financial resources and education.

Being a councillor is a unique job, with no job description, no set hours and no boss – except you the voter. I'm delighted the Council Administration has agreed to upgrade the previously

toothless Climate Change Working Group into a full committee reporting to Council, and that my Green colleague from Fort William will be depute chair. Over the next years there will be a significant amount of money coming from Holyrood for climate initiatives, so we need to make sure we have projects ready to draw this money to the Highlands.

My email address is chris.ballance.cllr@highland.gov.uk. I will reply!



HEATING OIL COSTS

Over the last three years the heating oil price has ranged from less than 30p to the current level of £1.13 per litre. The peak was just over £1.40 in February 2022.

Many homes in Foyers and the Strath use domestic heating oil. Prices can be checked by telephoning a range of local suppliers or customers can use an oil buying club or service such as Boilerjuice. Costs are generally not too different, however if you are buying 1,000 litres, every penny saved on a litre will reduce your bill by £10.

Domestic heating oil usually has a VAT rate of 5% added to the cost. Make sure that any price you get quoted states whether the cost includes the VAT or if VAT is added. Many suppliers have a minimum delivery of 500 litres. Heating oil firms will often have one rate for deliveries of less than 1000 litres, and a slight discount if over 1,000 litres is ordered.

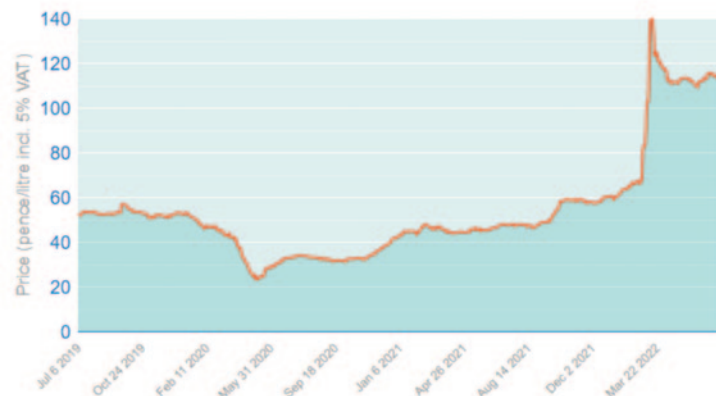
If you are new to the area, it is best to ask your neighbours who they use. Firms including Simpsons, Gleaner, Highland Fuels, Oilfast, Certas, Regency and Johnston Oils all accept one-off purchases and also offer top-up services or a budget plan. For some properties access in the winter can be a problem for larger road tankers, so best make sure you don't run too low on oil in the slippery, colder winter months.

The demand for heating oil is greater in the northern hemisphere than in the southern hemisphere, so the price of kerosene has often risen in the autumn and winter period.

Here is a link to the 'New to Oil' video from Johnston Oils. Johnston also offer a link to Heating Oil Clubs.

[New To Oil | Home Heating Oil Made Easy | Johnston Oils \(johnston-oils.co.uk\)](https://www.johnston-oils.co.uk)

[Johnston Oils | Heating Oil Clubs | Save on cost and carbon | \(johnston-oils.co.uk\)](https://www.johnston-oils.co.uk)



Average Home Heating Oil Price, Scotland over the last 3 years. Source Boilerjuice.com

WHAT'S ON IN JULY - UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT WILDSIDE

SOUP TO GO!

MEG'S MINDFUL MOVEMENT

PILATES

WILDSIDE BABY & TODDLER GROUP

WILD CRAFTS

NEEDLES & PINS

SPIN & CHATTER GROUP

EVERY MONDAY FROM 12PM

EVERY TUESDAY 10.30AM

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10AM

EVERY THURSDAY 9:30AM-11:30AM

SATURDAY 9TH JULY

12TH JULY, 26TH JULY

19TH JULY, 2ND AUGUST

AND IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 23RD JULY:

THE HIGHLAND GATHERING AT
CORRIEGARTH ESTATE 12NOON - 4PM

JOIN THE TRUST

If you would like to become a member of the Trust then please go to.

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/join-the-trust/>

HIRE THE WILDSIDE CENTRE FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENTS & GROUP MEETINGS

2 EVENT ROOMS

Each can hold up to 84 people, one with
kitchen access

1 MEETING/TRAINING ROOM

For up to 29 people



CONTACT admin@sfctrust.org.uk

MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS... AND PHOTOGRAPHER

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Thanks also to Russell for his fab photos.

