

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

March 2021 Issue Number: 20

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The start button has been pressed on the first exciting stage of working out a new set of long term community priorities. You will have received a link, and there are paper copies too, to a simple three question survey. It doesn't sound much, but your thoughts and ideas will create the vital foundations of a new Community Action Plan.

The CAP won't be the Trust's plan: it will be the whole community's plan. That's why the Trust has commissioned an independent team to work with the community as a whole to explore and agree how to spend our money and energies.

The first stage is to gather views from the entire community about what you all want for the future. Whatever your age, wherever you live, whoever you are – everyone's views are equally important.

The team leader, Nick Wright, says: "The community will decide what will be in this plan - not us, not the Trust nor anybody else. Our starting point is to ask what kind of community each individual person wants. So, whether you're 9 or 90, please invest just 5 minutes of your time to answer three simple questions online or on the leaflet that has come through your letterbox and is in the Post Office. Or if you prefer to have a blether, give me a call on 07900 334110"

After the survey closes on Monday 15 March, Nick's team will analyse every response, share a summary for everyone to check, and then work with the whole community during April and May to work out what priorities to put into action.

Every Trust member has a huge part to play. Please think of a couple of folk who wouldn't normally bother with things like this – maybe friends, family or neighbours – and encourage them to fill it in. Share the survey link on social media or give them a call. They are the people we really need to get to! **AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY!**

Nick Wright

DO IT NOW!

IT'S YOUR FUTURE AT STAKE!

5 4 3 2 1 0 DAYS TO...

DEADLINE DAY
MONDAY
15
MARCH

COMPLETE THE SURVEY...
www.communityfuture.net or Foyers Post Office

COVID-19 HELP ON THE WAY

We are now in a position to announce the launch of a second round of measures to alleviate the damaging impact the pandemic is having on our community. The Boleskine Brolly Group team, comprising volunteers from the Trust, Community Council, Boleskine Community Care and Knockie Trust and residents, has finalised a package of support in discussion with a range of funders.

You will find details of what is available in the latest edition of the Brolly Group newsletter. You will see it falls into the following area; access to free food and hot meals, financial support to help with loss of earnings, household expenses and financial hardship and access to fuel. The support has

been designed to help people struggling with household expenses that have been made worse by the lockdown and the recent spell of exceptionally cold weather.

The support is also designed to address the emotional and mental health issues that were laid bare in the recent survey when residents were asked to tell us about the stresses and strains caused by the lockdown. There are some great activities to get involved in to help rebuild some of the social networks damaged by the need to isolate.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers and community groups who have worked hard to pull the support together and also to the funders that include SSE Renewables, Greencoat Capital, The Highand Council and Highland and Islands Enterprise

Gareth Jones

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

CHAIR'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

This month we welcomed Tony Foster on board as our newly appointed Trust manager. His experience and expertise will help Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust to improve its effectiveness; in particular moving projects forward at a faster pace. He will be introducing himself to all of our community groups in the very near future, albeit virtually!

The Board of Directors, alongside our Funders, have approved another round of financial support to help those people in our community who have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Trust have also been working closely with the Brolly Group and Knockie Trust, to put in place initiatives to also help alleviate the impact the lock-down has had on mental health. Look out for the latest version of the Brolly Group newsletter that will include all the activities, advice and help that is on offer.

The first major step in developing a Community Action Plan has been launched with the distribution to every household asking you what future you want for our area. This is your opportunity to set the Trust's agenda for the next ten years - so please complete the survey if you haven't already done so. The next phase will see the start

of the Community Assembly, another chance for you to get involved in the detailed discussions around the issues highlighted from the CAP survey results. We are always looking for volunteers and residents to drive the community projects forward so please get in touch if you are interested.

The Directors have been working hard in the background, liaising with our Architect and other professionals, to establish a firm plan for each legacy project; breaking them down into immediate next steps so that we can build momentum to push these along at a faster pace. Each legacy project will have a local steering group to help keep you informed and become more involved in the decision making. Riverside Field, Foyers Bay, The Wildside Centre and Errogie Church are all looking for local supporters to get involved and help us out. If you have an interest in any of the current projects, please get in touch and offer a hand.

Lockdown life continues for us all and we are keen for our community spaces to be utilised and become outside social gathering spaces, so that when restrictions begin to ease we can meet with our friends and neighbours and get chatting again! If you have any good ideas about how we can use the buildings managed by the Trust, please get in touch. In the meantime stay safe and take care.

Kirsty Balfour
Chair, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

NEW MANAGER SAYS HELLO

Hi all

My name is Tony Foster and I am the new Trust Manager for Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust. I am very excited about taking up the role and the opportunity to support the community and Trust Board in any way I can. I appreciate these are unusual times but communities and community groups across Scotland have led the way in supporting each other like never before.

For the community of Stratherrick and Foyers area I see (in my limited knowledge of the area) this is nothing new, but it has certainly been enhanced and strengthened during the last twelve months, which I find truly inspiring. I hope we can retain the links that have been made and are needed to support

each other as we all gradually come out of this pandemic.

Quite by chance you have an excellent opportunity with the community consultation that is taking place. The findings from this work can help focus the Trusts resources and make sure everyone has their say, and not simply be driven by the loudest voices. Wider than that it will also help other community groups strengthen and adapt what you do to make the area an even better place to live and work.

One of the outputs from the process will be strong guiding principles for all the community to work towards. I hope we can all work together on achieving the community objectives that you will help to identify in this major piece of work. The amount of work that has already been done 'behind the scenes' by volunteers with busy lives has impressed me. Several projects are being worked on at an equal pace with the expectation more will come from the

proposed Community Action Plan. This will keep us all busy for a few years yet!

Along the way I hope to have a chance to say 'hello' – even if 'virtually' for the time being. I've been made to feel very welcome so far and that certainly helps calm any new job nerves I had!

Meantime stay well.

Tony



NEW TEAM MANS THE PUMPS

2021 sees a new team in charge at the Craigarroch Inn. Richard Brook and Nigel Hall look forward to bringing their plans to life, revitalising the pub and hotel. Speaking to the NEWS, Rich said 'The latest period of lockdown has given us the opportunity to get to know the business and the area as well as listen to valuable feedback from local residents. We are grateful for the advice, support and good wishes that we've received. It's clear the Craigarroch is a focal point for the community and everyone is keen for it (and us) to be successful.

Through our current takeaway coffee and cake service, we have started to



champion local produce and local suppliers. Sustainability and limiting the impact we have on our surroundings is very important to us, as is playing an active role in the community we are now part of. We will continue this as restrictions are lifted and we start to re-open more fully. We have been warned just how busy the summers get and so are taking this time to plan and prepare as much as possible. We are about to start work on the top floor of the building, bringing a few of the rooms back online to accommodate hotel guests, in anticipation of the hopeful increase in demand for the 'staycation' this season. A kitchen garden is also in the offing (if the static caravan has departed by the time you're reading this). Originally hailing from Yorkshire and Wales, we've spent the last 15 years in the Middle East.

This is our first adventure working together so we'll see how we get on! Our previous experience, Nigel's as executive director, developing and running hospitality and facility management businesses in both the UK and the Gulf and mine as chief marketing officer for Informa plc, the world's largest events company, will hopefully come together well for the



journey ahead. Horlicks, our four-legged member of the team, also brings excellent customer service to the table (but not to pheasants). We are keen to work with other local businesses and organisations to help promote this stunning place we now call home as a key destination for sustainable tourism; helping to achieve the benefits this delivers to the next generation, the local economy and the fabric of society. We are both excited about the possibilities ahead as we bring fresh passion and ideas to the business and hope very much that the community walks the path with us (after we've had a haircut).'

Richard Brook and Nigel Hall

ITS A CHURCH NOT A TARDIS!



Many thanks to everyone who completed the Errogie Church survey. We received completed forms from more than 30 homes representing more than 50 people and your ideas on how to use the building were many and varied; ceilidhs, community meals, book club, heritage centre, art gallery, yoga lessons, film nights, music venue and so on. The church is big, but we will need a veritable TARDIS to fit everything in! What was particularly pleasing was the trouble

respondents took to describe the experience they want to enjoy when they step into the building. We are now appointing an architect and the feedback will help drive the design.

The views of how the whole community would like to develop this building will be drawn from the CAP survey.

Meanwhile we are looking for volunteers to develop a plan for Stratherrick Public Hall. The call in the Christmas edition of the Stratherrick and Foyers Magazine for 'fresh blood' to join the management committee drew a blank. There are exciting plans being developed in the background, but a team of local residents to refine and drive them forward is the missing link in the Trust's plan to provide a high quality meeting space in walking distance of the main centres of population. A plan for the residents of Inverfarigaig is gathering pace; it is disappointing that so far there is little interest in transforming Stratherrick Public Hall - the historic focal point for the area's social life. If you want to help please contact Gareth Jones at gareth-dir@sfctrust.org.uk.

Gareth Jones

BUILD A BETTER SKILL BASE

We are delighted to hear from Richard and Nigel that they are exploring the possibility of taking on an apprentice. Do you run a business and are you planning to develop the skills of your team? The Trust's Community Apprenticeship Scheme aims to benefit local communities by the advancement of education, training or retraining among local unemployed people.

The Apprenticeship Scheme is open to anyone 16 and over and resident in Stratherrick and Foyers. The scheme is run in conjunction with our neighbouring Community Companies at Glengarry and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston. The Apprenticeship Scheme is administered by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company. For more information including our Apprentice application form guidelines for businesses then please go to <https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/apprenticeship-scheme>. If you are an employer and would like to register an interest in the scheme or if you are or know someone who is interested in becoming an apprentice in the scheme, please contact the Apprentice Scheme's Joint Administrator by email – contact@communitycompany.co.uk

Jillian Barclay

ADVERTISE YOUR WARES

Our new website is almost ready to launch! We have a new look and feel and a more user friendly site. We will be adding to it over the coming months so it is a website that is helpful and inclusive to everyone within our community. It will be accessible for all groups to advertise key events, book out our local meeting places when restrictions allow and contain much more. We are currently building a local Directory to help us locate all local businesses and amenities available to our community. If you would like your business to be featured within our directory and you are within the Stratherrick & Foyers area then please send the name, address, contact number, email and a photo if possible to jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk.

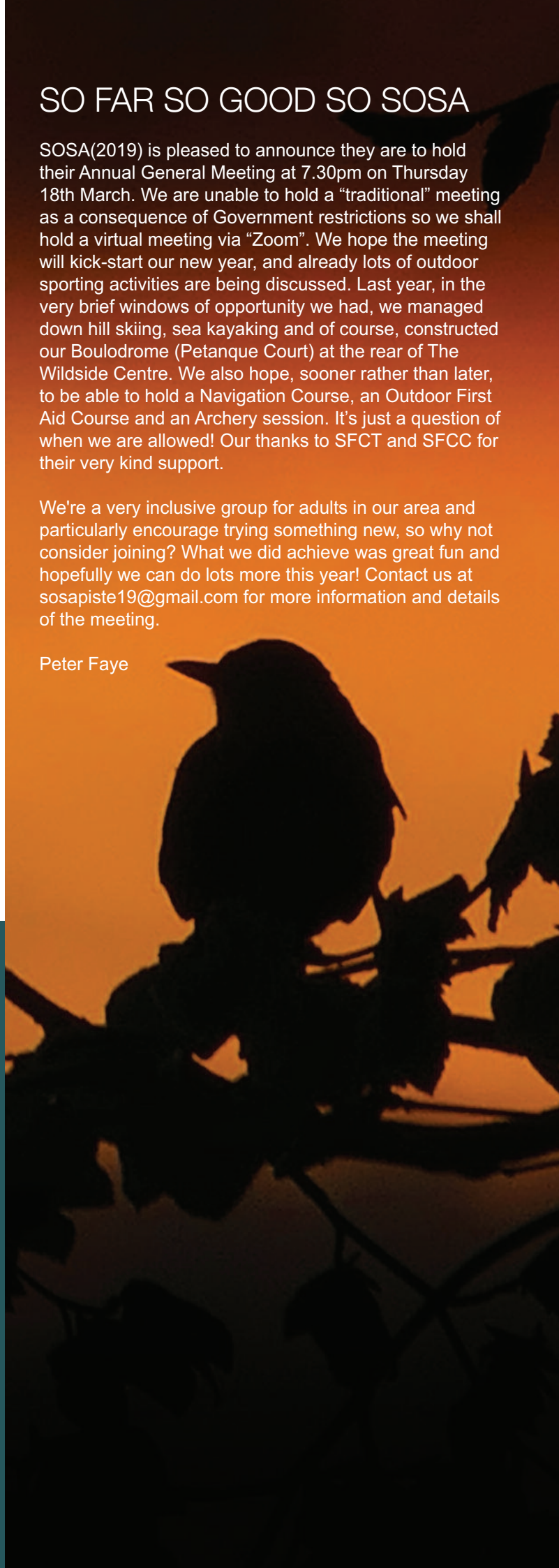
Jillian Barclay

SO FAR SO GOOD SO SOSA

SOSA(2019) is pleased to announce they are to hold their Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th March. We are unable to hold a "traditional" meeting as a consequence of Government restrictions so we shall hold a virtual meeting via "Zoom". We hope the meeting will kick-start our new year, and already lots of outdoor sporting activities are being discussed. Last year, in the very brief windows of opportunity we had, we managed down hill skiing, sea kayaking and of course, constructed our Boulodrome (Petanque Court) at the rear of The Wildside Centre. We also hope, sooner rather than later, to be able to hold a Navigation Course, an Outdoor First Aid Course and an Archery session. It's just a question of when we are allowed! Our thanks to SFCT and SFCC for their very kind support.

We're a very inclusive group for adults in our area and particularly encourage trying something new, so why not consider joining? What we did achieve was great fun and hopefully we can do lots more this year! Contact us at sosapiste19@gmail.com for more information and details of the meeting.

Peter Faye



**STRATHGORFOYBRIDGE OUTDOOR
SPORTING ASSOCIATION (2019)**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Thursday 18th March 2021

(Via "Zoom")



ALL WELCOME -
AND PLANS TO BE
MADE! IT CAN ONLY
GET BETTER!



WANT TO JOIN OR
KNOW MORE? COME
TO OUR MEETING OR
DROP A LINE TO THE
EMAIL BELOW!

**WE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE HEALTHY OUTDOOR AND SOCIAL
ACTIVITY FOR ALL ADULTS IN OUR AREA. ALL WELCOME REGARDLESS
OF ABILITY - WHETHER YOU'RE AN EXPERT OR A TOTAL BEGINNER! WHY
NOT GIVE IT A TRY?**

EMAIL TO: SOSAPISTE19@GMAIL.COM

CAREER BURSARY BECKONS

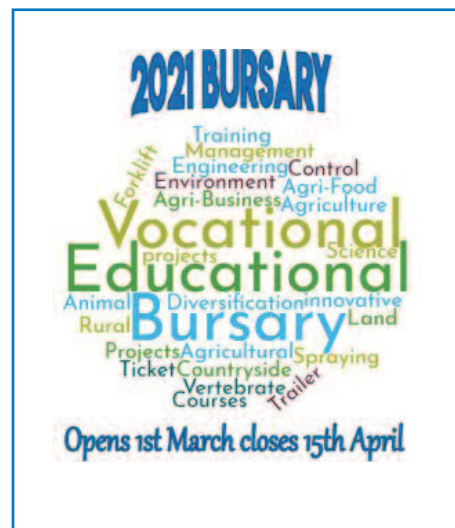
The Black Isle Farmers' Society has announced that its bursary scheme is open for applications this year.

Stratherrick and Foyers residents are eligible to apply for the scheme which helps people between 16-26 years of age. President, Freida Mckenzie said "Our bursary scheme has been running successfully for several years, and it's that time of year again when we are looking for applications.

Examples of the types of areas that the bursary may be applicable to are agriculture, animal science, land management and rural environment to name but a few. Full details of how to apply and the conditions can be found on the Black Isle Show website. However we want to ensure that people know that they only have only until April 15th to return their completed application forms.

Application forms are available at <https://blackisleshow.com/bursary/>

Steven Watson



EVENTS THIS MONTH

Tuesday 2nd March

Wednesday 3rd March

Friday 12th March

Monday 15th March

Tuesday 16th March

Thursday 18th March- 19:30

Monday 22nd March- 19:30

Tuesday 23rd March

Thursday 25th March

Boleskine Brolly Group Meeting

Monthly Trust Board Meeting

Brolly Group Financial help document released.

Closing Date for CAP survey

Boleskine Brolly Group Meeting

SOSA AGM via Zoom

Wildside Landscaping Design Team Zoom Meeting

Boleskine Brolly Group Meeting

SSE Catch up Meeting

291 DAYS TO CHRISTMAS

The Board has agreed that the scheduled date of this year's Winter Wonderland event will be held on the weekend of Friday 10th December 2021. We are starting to make plans now - there are only 291 days to Christmas!

GO ON! ASK A QUESTION

Have you got a question you would like to ask The Trust? We are starting a Q&A section in each newsletter and bi-annual magazine, to help the community and the Board understand how we are feeling and what people's thoughts are. We need your questions to make it a success!

Please send any questions that have been on your mind or you would like answers too to: jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk or catriona-dir@sfctrust.org.uk and we will publish the answers in the next newsletter.

JOIN THE TRUST

If you would like to become a member of the Trust, please click on this link.

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/membership>

JOIN THE WILDSIDE DESIGN TEAM



We would love to transform the grounds around The Wildside Centre and make it fit for purpose, so that the community can begin to enjoy the outdoor spaces. We would like to get together a group of enthusiasts who would like to input their ideas, wants and needs into the design and help transform it into a place where you might stop off for a picnic, let the kids safely run about, relax on riverside benches, take in the view of the beautiful scenery, see vintage machinery...the list goes on.

We will put a number of ideas into motion, but we need to know what you want and we need you to help make it happen. If you would like to be involved in supporting this project then please join us for an informal Zoom chat and we can start to share ideas together! The meeting is on MONDAY 22ND MARCH at 7:30 pm. Please email: kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk or jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for your zoom invite.

If you cannot attend but would like to send in your suggestions and be kept informed about the groups ideas and decisions then please email us, the more ideas the better!

Thank you!
Kirsty & Jillian

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY REPORTERS!

Our summer edition of the news is OPEN for articles! Please email all your fabulous stories, gardening tips, recipes, group updates or anything you feel the community would love to hear about to: strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk Can we ask that all articles are accompanied with an image and the name of the author clearly stated with your article. Please find a link attached to our new Photography Consent form that we ask you to fill in. This gives the Trust your permission to use the photos you submit. Once we have it on file, you will not need to do it again. The deadline for submissions is the 12th April 2021. The link to the consent form is:

https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Photo-Video-Consent-Form_GDPR-2021_GJupdate.pdf



TAKING CARE

The Board has agreed to recruit a caretaker, responsible for the maintenance of the Trust's buildings and grounds. A job description will be available shortly, so please keep an eye out for a job advert that will be posted on the Trust's website.



The Wildside Centre Landscaping Design Team!

We would love to transform the grounds around The Wildside Centre and make it fit for purpose, so that the community can begin to enjoy the outdoor spaces around The Wildside Centre. We would like to get a group of enthusiasts who would like to input their ideas, wants and needs into the design and help transform it into a place where you might stop off for a picnic, let the kids safely run about, sit on benches, take in the view by the river, see vintage machinery...the list goes on.

We need to put some of the ideas into motion, but we need to know what you want and we need you to help make it happen.

If you would like to be involved in supporting this project then please join us for an informal Zoom chat and we can start to share ideas together!

MONDAY 22ND MARCH, 7:30pm

Please email: kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk or jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk

For your zoom invite.

If you cannot attend but would like to send in your suggestions and be kept informed about the groups ideas and decisions then please email us, the more ideas the better!

Thank you!

Kirsty & Jillian



MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS... AND PHOTOGRAPHER

This newsletter is made possible by community benefit funding from SSE Renewables, Greencoat and Green Highland Allt Luaidhe (228) Limited.

Thanks also to Russell for his fab photos.

