

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

February 2021 Issue Number: 19

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWS!

Welcome to our first newsletter. We want to bring you more news, more often so we have decided to publish a newsletter every month. It will include updates on the Trust's activities and bring to your attention as quickly as possible the key decisions we make. It will also include your news and stories that you want your community to hear about.

It's important to us to keep everyone informed about what the Trust is doing and provide an insight into how our plans are developing. We will still publish the



popular Stratherrick & Foyers News magazine and this will appear twice a year with a summer and winter edition. Both the monthly newsletter and bi-annual magazines will be available via email and printed versions that will be distributed throughout the community. If you would like to receive the newsletter and magazine, please contact Steven, the Trust's Community Liaison Officer, at clo@sfctrust.org.uk. As with the News (thank you to the 20-plus people who contributed to the Christmas edition!), your stories and photos are very welcome. Please email Steven with the news and photos you would like us to share.

We are excited to announce that the development of our Community Action Plan has officially begun. This is a great opportunity for everyone to have a say in how our community benefit money will be spent to shape our future. Although this is happening under lockdown conditions, we are confident that Nick Wright and his team have the experience, desire, innovation and tools to get out to everyone; listening in particularly to the voices of those people we rarely hear from.

There is a steering group, comprising a wide range of local people representing every age and background and drawn from every corner of the area. It will guide the development of the plan and has held its first meeting. The steering group will ensure the plan that emerges will be inspired and owned by the community. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved so keep a look out over the coming weeks for more information about how you can contribute your thoughts and ideas.

Finally, it has been wonderful to see how everyone in our community has been looking out for one another during this lock-down. It's hard on all of us and lots of people are struggling; whether through loneliness and isolation, financial stress and pressures, or home-schooling stubborn children who just want to be back with their friends. It is understandable that all of this is having an impact on everyone's mental well-being.

If you want to simply help with one of the initiatives to ease the damaging impact of the pandemic or shape the future of the place where we live, please get in touch. We have lots of fantastic voluntary groups throughout our community who would welcome your support. To get involved or simply share your thoughts please email: admin@sfctrust.org.uk. Take care!

Kirsty Balfour
Chair, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

DEATH OF SANDY FRASER



Sandy Fraser, Rosedale, Essich passed on late last year as a result of a sudden stroke. His funeral was held in Inverness on 19th December under COVID restrictions, He was 91 years of age. Sandy was one of eight children and lived his early years at Migovie. He was a pupil at Errogie School and learned his lessons and Bible from Jessie MacGillivray. Sandy was a regular contributor to Stratherrick and Foyers News. Sandy's tales were a high point of the week for many readers.

Sandy worked around cars and Land Rovers all his life. He was either driving them, under the bonnet or under a ramp. When he started at MacRae and Dick one of his jobs was to clean the mud from the underside of farmers' Land Rovers. While the farmers went to Inverness Mart, mechanical repairs were undertaken in time for them to drive home. Sandy was a stalwart of the church. He sang and led praise as a precentor. Sandy was in the RAF and served at home and in Malta, even reaching North Africa which he said was 'very sandy!'

Sandy was 'always up and doing' at the bees, or in the garden. We have lost a strong link to Stratherrick from the 1930's and wish Sandy well on his last journey. Our kind thoughts are extended to Barbara and to Alexander and Murdo.

You can listen to the funeral service at W T Fraser's from this weblink. It opens with the 23rd Psalm sung to Bays of Harris in the old style.

<https://williamtfraserandson.co.uk/notices/murdoch-sandy-fraser-inverness/>

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COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Stratherrick and Foyers Trust has commissioned a team, led by Nick Wright Planning (<https://nickwrightplanning.co.uk/>) to pull together a Community Action Plan. They will work with the community to document what the Community Benefit money should be spent on over the next 20 years. The first step has been to establish a team of local residents who will guide the development of the plan. They met for the first time on Wednesday January 21st. The project will take approximately four months to complete and the illustration below shows the key steps involved. The next task is to develop a comprehensive list of all the individuals and organisations that should be consulted. If you would like to express an interest in being involved, please email: Nick on nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk.

Gareth Jones



NEW MARQUEE

We have finally received our long-awaited Community Marquee and we hope, as restrictions ease, this will be a useful support to groups and individuals that would like to meet people in a safe outdoor space. We are initially looking to erect it over The Petanque Court at The Wildside Centre because of its hardcore surface. It will be anchored to the ground while there is the risk of high winds. We are looking for help to put the marquee up, so if you are willing to lend a hand then please email: jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk

Jillian Barclay



WINTER WONDERLAND

The Board has agreed that the Winter Wonderland event, staged just before Christmas, should continue to be an annual event and we have currently pencilled in the weekend of 10th December 2021, COVID restrictions permitting. We would like to thank every volunteer and contributor who helped in making this year's event a great success and thank everyone who attended. It was a truly wonderful few days and seeing such happy children and families made the 'challenge' of organising the event well worth it! We would like to put in place an 'events team' from the community to start planning next year's Winter Wonderland and big social events like the Summer Fair and Fireworks Night. If you would like to be involved or simply find out more then please email: jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk

Jillian Barclay

ERROGIE CHURCH

As you may be aware, just before Christmas the Trust purchased the old stone church in the centre of Errogie. The objective is to turn it into a place where people from the north end of the Strath (Errogie, Inverfarigaig, Torness etc.) can meet and take part in activities. At the last meeting of the Trust Board approval was given to plan the repair of the building. Meanwhile a steering group is being set up to guide the renovation and development of the church into a community centre. The first Zoom meeting will be on Thursday February 4th at 19.30. If you would like to attend please email: gareth-dir@sfctrust.org.uk.

Gareth Jones



BOLESKINE BROLLY GROUP

The team coordinating the local response to the Covid-19 pandemic is currently assessing the impact it is now having on households and businesses in our area. The Boleskine Brolly Group has asked residents via a survey to describe the problems that are being caused by the third lockdown and suggest ways of alleviating them. The challenges that are being highlighted include high winter fuel costs because people are at home all day, the pressures created by home schooling and continued social isolation. The Boleskine Brolly Group comprises the Trust, Community Council, Boleskine Community Care and The Knockie Trust. Initiatives over the last few months have included distributing food boxes, financial support, befriending service etc. The majority of the people involved in the project since early last year are taking a break consequently, we need new volunteers. If you would like to help, please drop a note to: gareth-dir@sfctrust.org.uk.

Gareth Jones



EVENTS THIS MONTH

Thursday 21st January
CAP steering group Zoom meeting

Wednesday 27th January
Monthly Meeting with SSE

Tuesday 2nd February
Boleskine Brolly Group meeting

Wednesday 3rd February
Monthly Trust Board meeting

Thursday 4th February
Errogie Church steering group meeting

Date of erection of marquee
(Government Guidelines Permitting) - TBC

Jillian Barclay

WILDSIDE TO BE A VACCINE CENTRE

We are delighted that the new Covid vaccine roll-out has started in earnest at Foyers Medical Centre. It has restricted parking and space at the centre for large numbers to be accommodated consequently the Trust has offered the Wildside Community Centre at Whitebridge as an additional venue. It has ample parking and three large rooms. The Practice Manager is going to explore the practicality of using the building in order to increase the volume of people who can be vaccinated. It might also be used for next year's Flu Vaccine programme. Watch this space!

Catriona Fraser



HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TRUST

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

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