

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS

December 2020 Issue Number: 18



WHO IS THE
BOY IN THE
RED BREEKS?

COMMUNITY SHINES
THROUGH THE
COVID-19 LOCKDOWN



LOCK
DOWN
BABIES

ALL CHANGE AT THE TRUST

STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL
CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

PLUS... Bake your Christmas
decorations and The perfect
Chocolate Banana Bread

Welcome to the winter edition of the News. As you can see the magazine now has a new look. We have moved to the larger format to accommodate the vast number of articles that have been contributed by you the readers. Many thanks to everyone who responded to our call for stories. There is a special thanks too for the team that produced the magazine; News Editor Jillian Barclay, Chief Correspondent Steven Watson and our Sub-Editors Kirsty Balfour and Hugh Nicol. Finally we would like to express our gratitude to Russell Bain for permission to use his delightful photos, including the one on the front cover, taken in and around the Strath. The magazine was designed and printed by Lisa MacRae at A4 Design and Print Limited, Inverness.

Gareth Jones
Editor

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Stratherrick & Foyers
Community Trust

CHAIR'S BULLETIN:

Hello Everyone.

It's been a while since we gave you an update on what your Directors and the Trust have been up to during recent very strange times. Firstly, we hope you are well and getting used to the new ways of living. It's been a strange time for all of us and, for some, undoubtedly a very difficult time – that seems set to continue for a while yet. Thankfully, there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

You may have noticed that Trust Directors, in conjunction with good friends at SFCC, BCC, the Lunch Club and the Knockie Trust, have undertaken several initiatives to ease some of the difficulties encountered by our Community. They have worked extremely hard and given much time and energy in their efforts. There wasn't a magic wand to solve everyone's problems, but the work they have done has had real impact. We should all recognise this fact, and that we are fortunate enough to live in a community where this crisis has really shown how we are more fortunate than many. Some of our friends and neighbours have experienced some really hard times (and may continue to do so), but I hope they have gained comfort not only from the support they have had, but also from the sense of caring and neighbourliness that has been very evident recently.

Having said all of that – what else have we been up to during this time? Despite restrictions, we have managed

to progress some of our projects along and have taken advantage of being able to do works without displacing our community groups – admittedly because they couldn't be there! Every cloud ...

The Wildside Centre has had a complete facelift – redecoration, new flooring, new comfortable, functional furniture and, most importantly, the installation of a heating system! The external area is much safer, with a larger car park and energy efficient lighting for dark nights. Our thanks to several very capable local folk who have undertaken the works – they've done a grand job! If you are a local tradesperson who would like to bid for Trust contracts, just keep an eye on the S&FCT website, we always advertise contracts there.

Following several Community Consultations and the collation of everyone's opinions, the Planning Application Notice has been served for the long-awaited new facilities at the Riverside Field. By the time you read this, another consultation will have taken place and the Planning Application can be submitted.

The Community Broadband scheme, despite being halted in its tracks in the springtime, has recommenced, with the resolution of some tricky access and site issues. Tenure of appropriate sites and a lot of "infrastructure" work has been occurring, to enable the network to undergo expansion. We know this has been a long haul and thank all those who have waited patiently. It will be worthwhile, as and when you are offered a service.

There has also been progress down at Foyers Bay. Not as much physical progress as we would all like to see but lots of work behind the scenes. It would be wonderful if we could just bang in a concrete slipway and away we go - but the only place we would be going would be to the Sheriff Court!

As for our AGM, we would have been delighted to have held the meeting in the usual open format, this just wasn't possible at this time. Frankly, it doesn't look like restrictions will ease for many months, so we decided to hold the meeting via Zoom, with amendments to attendance and voting procedures. We are legally required to hold this meeting, so hope you will understand the approach we had to take.

If you are a Facebook user, you may be aware that our Communications Team

have opened a page with snippets and news for you. They have also worked extremely hard to put together this issue of "The News" and have received lots of news and items from yourselves. It's great to hear your news and stories!

On the subject of communication, it is now six years since we had a full Community Consultation and a chance to say what we would like to see in our Community, where we would like to see it, and how we would like our Community Benefits to be invested. The Board have decided it's time for another. This is everybody's chance to have their say and express an opinion, so we hope you will grasp the opportunity. Please use this exercise in a positive manner – what you say will dictate Trust policies and objectives for a significant time to come, so I would ask you to think on a broad, community wide scale – bearing in mind the significant income and hugely privileged position we are in.

This will be the last message I write as Chair, other than my Annual Report presented at the AGM, so there are a couple of points I would like you to consider.

The vast majority of our membership are positive, supportive and helpful and are fully aware that the Directors of the Trust are Volunteers – they are not employees, they receive no remuneration and give up hours of their time – solely for the benefit of the Community. Please support them. Criticism is welcomed – but let's make it positive and perhaps offer to help? If you don't feel something is right, or you have a better idea, just speak to one of the Directors or Staff – they would be delighted to discuss things with you. Don't forget these folk are your neighbours and by volunteering, they have demonstrated their commitment to our Community through the time and efforts they devote.

Well, there you go, that's my rant over. I hope you all stay well as we look forward to better days ahead. And now that you're all going to volunteer to help, contact details are all on the website, or you can write to us at The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6UN!

Thanks to all who have been staunch supporters over the years and I wish you all the very best.

Peter

Peter J Faye
Chair, S&FCT

LEGAL EAGLE MAINTAINS THE TRUST

It would be hard to understate the tenacity and amount of work Zoe has put into this community through her unpaid work for the Trust. Initially, Zoe joined as a co-opted director, and then served as the Trust's Chair. She then resumed her Director role and continued to provide the specialist legal and contractual input to the Trust which was so crucial at that stage in the organisation's development.

Every day you get the same dependable and principled Zoe. It is her personal qualities of determination, community service and unerring sense of fairness which always stand out. In all her dealings with wind farm operators, elected representatives and members of the Trust you could guarantee Zoe would be prepared and principled, ready to take the long view and to make sure agreements and paperwork were correct and concluded.

The Trust drew great benefit from Zoe's presence. As Chair she made use of her legal expertise to ensure that the organisation was well-run and accountable. She made record-keeping and documenting all financial decisions a very high priority to demonstrate to the firms which provide the Trust with Community Funds that they could rely on the good governance of the Trust under her leadership. People who take on the role of Chair also need to have the confidence of their fellow directors, and Zoe certainly had that. Zoe was not averse to cracking the odd whip, reminding folk of their responsibilities and encouraging them to take bolder steps for the benefit of our community.

It is down to Zoe, in no small part, that the Trust has acquired the key assets that will support so many beneficial activities in and around Foyers and Stratherrick. Firm foundations have been laid on which the new team can build a great future.

Steven Watson
S&FCT Community Liaison Officer

TRUST DOUBLE ACT BOWS OUT

Two stalwarts of Stratherrick and Foyers Trust have decided it is time to pass on the baton. After many years of dedicated service to the organisation the Chair Peter Faye and his partner Zoe Iliffe stepped down at the recent annual general meeting. Two people who have worked closely with the duo accepted the invitation to pen a tribute to the contribution they have made to the Trust.

At our recent Annual General Meeting we said goodbye (for now?) to Peter and Zoe who have to stand aside.

They had not been living in the Strath for very long when the new constitution for the Trust was adopted in February 2014 and elections were held for directorships for the first time. Both were keen to put their names forward for nomination and to be a part of this exciting community project.

Peter was elected at that AGM and Zoe was co-opted onto the Board shortly after.

Ed Ley-Wilson was the first Chair after that meeting and when he moved away from the Trust a replacement Chair was needed. Zoe stepped up to the plate and her working background in the Law proved to be of great value time and time again when contracts, leases and other legal matters arise as they do quite frequently. Her presence on the Board has undoubtedly saved the Trust many thousands of pounds in legal costs.

She acted as Chair for 3 years before stepping aside to give another director the opportunity. During her time on the Board she has been part of the Finance Team, has led the Grants Team and the Riverside Field Team. Speaking as someone who knows, I can confirm that those duties are not far short of a full time job yet she was holding down a legal job in Inverness during most of that time.



Peter's working life and therefore experience has been wide. He has worked in banking, hospitality and, more recently, in property management. This property experience has proved invaluable many times and particularly with the negotiations over the Foyers Hubs lease, Foyers Bay, Riverside Field and Wildside.

Peter took over the Chair in 2017 as well as being part of the Finance Team and Community Benefit Negotiator for the Trust. He too was holding down a job in Inverness during most of his time as director. He had to stand down as elected director at the 2019 AGM but agreed to be co-opted back for few months to help the Trust earlier this year when his experience was needed to fill a vacancy.

We will miss their attendance at meetings and their huge input over the last six years. Always entertaining if Peter, when Chair, missed something from the agenda and had to be prompted by Zoe as former Chair!

Hopefully, once they have managed to catch up on all the personal jobs and projects that have been on hold for six years, they will consider volunteering for a further term.

Until then Peter and Zoe, enjoy your time off.

Frank Ellam
S&FCT Finance Director

NEW BLOOD ON STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three new directors were formally nominated to the S&FCT Board at the recent Annual General Meeting. There were enough volunteers to fill the vacant roles, so avoiding the need for an election.

Martin Donnelly re-joins the Board after a previous spell as a director, including holding the position of Liaison Director, nominated by the Community Council. Martin served for a number of years as a Community Councillor and consequently has a very good idea of the importance of a close working relationship between the Trust and the Council. Martin has lived and works in the area and is the owner of the Craigdarroch House Hotel in Foyers.

He is joined by another face familiar to the community, Catriona Fraser (pictured above). Catriona has lived in the area for 32 years with her husband Willie, where they have raised their



family, and in that time has been involved with many aspects of community life. Catriona set up South Loch Ness nursery, has been Chair of both Stratherrick Primary Parent Council and the Community Council, as well as being a Trustee of The Knockie Trust. She has a deep understanding of the needs of the community in Stratherrick and Foyers and brings great skills, developed as a teacher and union representative.

The third volunteer is Chris Gehrke (pictured above,) a resident of the north end of the patch, ensuring that Inverfarigaig now has strong representation on the Trust. Chris



works as a Regional Manager for a large health and social care charity, which provides him with a deep insight into the challenges faced by rural communities in the Highlands. He has vast experience in supporting the homeless, those with drug and alcohol addiction, vulnerable tenants and people with physical and learning disabilities. Chris will champion social housing and the development of a vibrant micro-economy, so helping with the offset of potential drift towards the area becoming a 'dormitory village,' hence ensuring Stratherrick and Foyers is in the vanguard of the move towards a new low carbon economy.

NEW MANAGER TO TAKE THE HELM



Hello. My name is Tony Foster and I am delighted to be taking on the role of your first Trust Manager at Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust from March 2021. It is very exciting to have the opportunity to join a developing organisation that has such big ambitions and a deep desire to support the community. The wonderful view was a selling point too! I have been asked to give a brief introduction to myself, so here goes! Originally from Lancashire I moved to

Scotland in 1979, living in Buchlyvie in Stirlingshire. 41 years later I'm married to Monika and with a daughter in second year at the University of Edinburgh and son at high school. For the last ten years I have been CEO of Kirknewton Community Development Trust in West Lothian. According to our last community participation exercise 'community spirit' is the reason people love living in Kirknewton and I hope the work the Trust and volunteers did contributed to that. I've never been prouder than how we together supported the community during Covid-19-19.

Along the way I was one of the founding members of the West Lothian Development Trust Forum (a sharing organisation promoting best practice for established, new and developing Trusts), was seconded to another Trust to steady the ship and make it sustainable, and have been Chair of Balerno High School Parent Council, Chair of Visit West Lothian Tourism

network, a Board Member of West Lothian Social Enterprise Network and roles on Pre-School and Primary School Councils.

Prior to my work in development trusts I had a background in Student Associations. I worked at the University of Edinburgh Students' Association for 12 years (Marketing Manager for all four Unions) and at the Students' Association of University of West of Scotland. I was a founding member of the UK's Marketing Managers in Student Unions and visited Universities in the US which sent me on the road of fund raising for all the organisations I have worked for. Finally I have dabbled in publishing and been a very young TV presenter - but those are stories for another day! I look forward to meeting and finding out more about you in the New Year.

Kind regards,

Tony

LOCK DOWN BABIES!



DAISY ETHERINGTON

Despite the challenging circumstances caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, life still brings little bundles of joy and we are delighted to announce the arrival of our beautiful baby girl Daisy Louise Etherington, on the 17th August 2020, weighing 6lbs 12oz. Big sister Poppy is taking her new role very seriously. Mum and baby are doing well.

Thank you for everyone's warm wishes, Ian and Katie Etherington xx



LACHLAN JENS SENUM FINLAY OF DALCRAGG, GORTHLECK.

Born during lockdown on the 14th of April 2020 to delighted parents Gunvor and Chris Finlay.

Despite Lachlan not being able to see anyone else but his parents for the first few months of his life, he is always really happy to meet new people and smiles to everyone, even if they're wearing a mask.

Chris Finlay



EWEN AND LISA ZOOM INTO MARRIAGE

Ewen moved to Whitebridge as a nine year old boy when the Campbell family took over the Hotel, and he eventually became bar-man, when he was old enough! The wedding was held at the Inverness Registry office, where he married Lisa Forsyth, from Inverness, where they both now live. Due to the recent circumstances only family members attended the occasion but his sister Aileen, who now lives in Norway, joined via Zoom and was able to see her brother get married. He insisted his Dad's car was used for the occasion, with the beautiful flowers being provided by Helen Grainger from "Flowers by the Loch".

Margaret Campbell

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER!

Colin and Margaret Adamson, of Inverfarigaig, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 20th August 2020.

"We had a lovely day with our family here at home, although unfortunately our grandchildren and our friends could not be with us, but we did receive lots of lovely messages and gifts."

Colin and Margaret would also like to thank their many friends for all the "Get Well" cards, letters, flowers, chocolates and many caring telephone calls, all of which were very much appreciated.



JOYCE WILLS of Errogie and Gorthleck 1923 – 2020

Joyce lived in the Strath for many years, in Errogie and Gorthleck, but died in a nursing home in Dalgety Bay on 22nd May. In early June her family accompanied her back to Stratherrick to be buried near her daughter Anna at Druintemple. Sadly due to lockdown restrictions Joyce's nieces, nephews and friends from far and near were not able to celebrate Joyce's full and well-lived life.

Joyce (second down on the left in the photograph) was born in Sunderland and became a teacher. She had a daughter by her first marriage, lived in Jamaica for a while and then moved to Northumberland. Joyce was a caring woman, interested in people and passionate about 'fairness'. She was a talented pianist, both classical and popular music; ran a choir for people with special needs, was a Samaritan, and was actively involved with Amnesty International. She was a wonderful cook and spoke French fluently, loving France and the French culture.

In 1984 Joyce met Pierre and they moved to the Old Manse in Errogie. A strong member of The Ladies Walking Group: she and Buddy MacDougall made good friends with Rose Fortune, having regular adventures and often getting lost (you will find a photo of them on the front page of the very first Boleskine Bulletin in 1997). Later in the Book Club: Jean Marshall always chose the books and Joyce always gave a thought-provoking analysis - those joining later were rather daunted by these erudite ladies! Joyce helped edit the Boleskine Bulletin making sure that sentence construction and spelling were in order, and for 5 years, until she began to lose her speech skills, took the bookings for the Seniors Lunch Club making sure that everyone had remembered. She arrived smartly dressed



and always waited to sit down next to anyone who looked to be on his or her own. She was a determined, generous, clever and loving woman with a dry sense of humour, and she will be fondly remembered by many in the Strath.

Joyce requested that the following passage, written by the Venerable Bede, be read out at her funeral:

"When we compare the present life of man on earth with that time of which we have no knowledge, it seems to me like the swift flight of a single sparrow through the banqueting hall where you are sitting at dinner on a winter's day with your counsellors. In the midst there is a comforting fire to warm the hall; outside, the storms of winter rain or snow are raging. This sparrow flies swiftly in through one door of the hall, and out through another. While he is inside, he is safe from the winter storms; but after a few moments of comfort, he vanishes from sight into the wintry world from which he came. Even so, man appears on earth for a little while; but of what went before this life or of what follows, we know nothing".

Jane O'Donovan



WILLIAM JOHN MACKINTOSH, 'WILLIE MAC', 'WILLIE NEWLANDS' of Errogie 1933 - 2020

Willie Mac died peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on 17th September 2020, aged 86 years. Willie, who hails from Errogie, was the youngest of a family of five. His sister Mary was known as Marie. She was a nurse in town and stayed at Newlands with Willie. When he retired they went to live in Inverness. There was a family burial at Boleskine Cemetery.

We would love to learn about Willie and his life. Have you a memory you could share for the next edition of the News.



Stratherrick Primary School

WALKING BUS FREES CAR PARKING SPACES

It has been a great start to the year; a bit strange with all the Coronavirus restrictions, but great nonetheless. It was so good to get back teaching in a school full of happy, excited and friendly faces (and that was just the staff!).

The pupils at Stratherrick were also really pleased to be back as well; seeing their friends, playing and chatting as though they had never been away. Such a joy to see, and their eagerness to learn was so evident, it made being back such a pleasure!

We have been getting some building work carried out in the playground. As teaching space is limited in the school we decided to arrange for an extra classroom to be provided in the playground - This will be a large space and will be a big boost for the children and the facilities they have to learn.

As a consequence of the construction taking place, the car parking area for staff and parents has been much reduced. To ease the pressure we decided to start what is known as a 'Walking Bus' - starting in the Hall Car Park in Gorthleck.

This has been successful, refreshing and energising for those of us on it. If you do see us in passing, please drive safely, give us a wave and a toot of your horn!

With the current restrictions and limitations we are not planning any get-togethers in school. However, fingers crossed, this will be allowed in the not too distant future and we will celebrate with a party/fete.

It will be great to see as many of you there as possible. Keep an eye out for a 'Save the Date.'

Alan Graham
Head Teacher



FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL ROLL DOUBLES IN SIZE

Foyers Primary started the Autumn term with 10 pupils. Cluster Headteacher Mrs Louise Robertson commented that half of the pupils on the roll were new to the school. Miss Pinkerton is currently on maternity leave, and Mrs Kirkland has settled in to preparing and serving the meals each day since taking over from Mrs Page last year. The pupils were delighted to learn that Rachel's baby Struan arrived safely on the 15th of September.

Mrs Robertson combines her work at Foyers with being Headteacher at Aldourie, where the role is currently 30 pupils. Running two schools is a challenge at the best of times, but COVID 19 has meant that activities outwith the school buildings and playground have been very limited. Many of the usual activities with other schools or in the community are not able to go ahead at present. COVID19 seems to have an effect on absolutely everything - it is almost part of the curriculum now!

The Highland Council website has been constantly updated with information about COVID 19 and has a page for school information. The website is a very useful place to look for any question you may have about the school arrangements. Here is the link:-

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/930/back_to_school

Louise Robertson
Head Teacher

IF YOUR CHILD HAS TO STAY AT HOME, THERE ARE MANY FREE ONLINE EDUCATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

A SCHOOL IN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE HAS POSTED THIS LONG LIST OF VARIED AND INTERESTING MATERIALS.

DO CHECK IT OUT AT THIS LINK:-

http://www.st-vincent-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/stv_room8_81_162582381.pdf

PACKED DIARY FOR YOUNGSTERS

In February we joined Youth Highland: Youth Scotland and the organisation is guiding us through setting up and running the Youth Club based at Wildside. We hope in the coming months to resume the Youth Club's activities so please keep a look out for emails from FIRA.

At the last Youth Club session, Neil Kirkland, Stewart Macpherson and Mick Rimmer from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service kindly ran a workshop for many of the young people on CPR and Defib training which was very well received. We hope to add this to our calendar as an annual event.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 lockdown the Tutoring sessions for those taking exams in April had to be abandoned part way through. However, thanks to a Covid 19 SFCT grant, we were able to deliver some additional tutoring in the form of a 'Catch Up Club' in English literacy.

One week prior to lockdown, the conditions were finally right on the Nevis Range and we grabbed the opportunity, after missing out last year, to take a group of FIRA members onto the slopes for the day. Most had been skiing before through the local primary

schools and remembered their ski legs quickly after a short refresher on the training slope before they were let loose for the rest of the day! The sun shone a little and then the wind got up and by 3.30pm they were exhausted but the early start was well worth it and they all had a fantastic time. There were lots of tired, rosy cheeked happy faces.

Little did we know that this was going to be our last activity together for such a long time...

Thank you SFCT for part funding this activity and to FIRA for paying for lunch for everyone.

The photo below was taken at the end of the day and was our final chance for a photo opportunity before our skiing season was over. The rest of the group were already inside warming up with hot chocolate!

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council awarded a Stronelairg Micro Grant for those families registered with FIRA. It was a £20 Amazon voucher to acknowledge how well the children have coped with lockdown. The voucher was used to buy educational items such as books and stationery.

A week before schools started back on a lovely sunny morning, several of the FIRA children and a handful of parents met at The Camerons Tearooms to enjoy a tasty brunch under the marquee.

With full stomachs we walked up the hill, crossed the road and headed to

the Intake where we walked the Dell footpath to Whitebridge. The walk was a little muddy underfoot and a cool wind blew which helped keep the midges away! We passed a surprising number of people on the footpath – walking and cycling as we admired the scenery, wildlife and farm animals. Well, that was the parents!! The children took off at great speed, blethering so much their feet could not keep up with them whilst all the time social distancing on the foot paths and the wide Dell Estate lane. It was a lovely sight to see and to hear their distant chatter after the quiet and isolation of lockdown.

At the end we were rewarded with some delicious homemade pizzas eaten outside in the garden of the Whitebridge.

This activity was funded by a SFCT Covid-19 Grant and for those that were able to attend, it gave them a huge amount of confidence to be able to move around their community safely. It enabled a great amount of social interaction and was a very positive experience for all adults and children alike. Thank you SFCT and it was great that we were able to support a couple of local businesses too.

FIRA was set up by Volunteer Parents a few years ago to help access SFCT funding for all Academy aged children in the Stratherrick & Foyers Community. For those who attend the IRA only we can apply on your behalf for up to £500 per student per academic year towards residential trips. Other High Schools/Parent Councils are able to apply directly to SFCT.

All P7s to S6s are welcomed to attend the Youth Club and Skiing sessions which are organised to help with P7s transitioning up to the High Schools. We will soon be holding our AGM, which under current guidelines will probably be held remotely. We welcome every parent or guardian, so please keep a look out for an email from FIRA.

For more information on FIRA and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Paula, FIRA secretary, at gpwombles35@aol.com.

Paula Page



MAJOR TRUST PROJECTS UPDATE REPORTS

The Trust has several major projects underway and in this article the lead directors provide an update on progress.

FOYERS BAY

Due to the current pandemic much of the work at Foyers Bay has been delayed.

Approaches to the authorities overseeing planning and SEPA regulations have been taking considerably longer than normal, but some progress has been made. The drawings and specifications for the slipway and pontoons are complete and the works will be going out to tender as soon as the regulatory bodies have given their approvals and requirements.



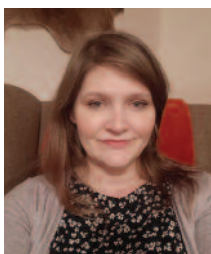
As you can see in the illustration, the plans include a boathouse, as well as a workshop and portable boat storage facility. Several groups and individuals have expressed an interest in making use of these facilities and if you would like to be involved in the planning process or have any suggestions for additional facilities which could be reasonably met, please let a member of the team know. The lead director will be in touch to discuss this via zoom to see if we can accommodate your idea.

Please email the lead director Russell at russell-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.

WILDSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

During 'Lockdown' we have taken the opportunity to make improvements to the Wildside Centre – which we hope the whole community can benefit from very soon.

New furniture is now in place. We have comfy and informal seating with matching coffee tables and also a number of folding, click together tables and stackable chairs. The furniture was picked with our community groups in mind, so we hope that it is now fit for purpose, versatile and easy to move so that you can arrange a room to suit your needs.



The flooring has been given an upgrade too and it now includes a hard floor for 'the dancing' when we can all get together for a party again! Finally a lick of paint to the walls

and wood-work has really brightened up the building and a new heating system will ensure we are all kept cosy!

The car park has been extended, external lighting installed and the pathway around the building and down to the river has been opened up. Thank you to the Bob Main and Ali MacQueen Team for completing the much-needed work. Dave Main has also built for us a quality shed to house the BBQ and mower. We are now busy planning ideas for the landscaping around the building – as always, your ideas are welcomed.

When restrictions lift and it is safe to do so The Wildside Centre will be ready to open for you all. We have updated our Risk Assessments, installed sanitiser and signage throughout the building and have had a good clean. New Booking Conditions and a Cleaning Schedule will be available when the building is able to re-open and we will really look forward to welcoming our community back.

Please email the lead director Kirsty at kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.

BROADBAND

At the start of this year the broadband project, managed by Cromarty Firth Wireless Networks (CFWN), had stalled with contributing factors such, as staff shortages, adverse weather, solicitors discussing leases, and not to mention the dreaded corona virus lingering around the corner. After a few hurdles, a lockdown, and some new staff, CFWN & SFCT are now working hard to extend the coverage to the remaining areas, including Erroglie, Foyers, Inverfarigaig and the other unconnected properties throughout the Strath.



Finally, a lease is close to being finalised to erect a mast at the top of Meall A' Ghuirmein, on the Dunmaglass estate which will help future proof the network and pave the way for additional connections throughout the Stratherrick and Foyers community.



There is ongoing work to install new base stations which will improve the network, which currently reaches 60-plus households, and hopefully alleviate peak time congestion and unplanned outages. These base-stations could not be possible without the help and cooperation of the community and SFCT and CFWN are extremely grateful for all the support and patience shown to us.

Please email the lead director Chris at chris-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.

RIVERSIDE FIELD

On 28 October 2020 the Trust's most recent Masterplan for the Riverside development was submitted to The Highland Council's planning department. This is not a detailed

planning application but is an advance notification of the Trust's proposals for access and parking and the infrastructure needed to support the elements of the wider development. On 7 November 2020 the Trust held an open ZOOM meeting when the Trust's architect, Mike Lawson, took the audience through the masterplan which was followed by a Q&A session. Some of the key points covered included:

- If the proposal is approved, the sports facilities would be developed in a series of phases and the specifics of each one will be made clear to the community
- The community will be closely consulted on each phase and to facilitate this a steering group will be formed
- External funding will be sought from organisations such as Sports Scotland once the Masterplan has been approved
- The Trust will work with the community to assess the level of demand and this information will be used to decide on the size and detail of the facilities
- The detailed plan will take into account how best to minimise the visual impact of the development,

where best to plant bushes and trees to provide screening etc.

At the end of the meeting Mike said the planning application, and reports on all community consultations, would be submitted in January to the planning authority. There will be detailed discussions with a number of statutory consultees e.g., SEPA, NatureScot and the Transport Authority, and a planning decision can be expected to take between three and six months. Please email the lead director Kirsty at kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.

Please email the lead director Kirsty at kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.

COMMUNICATIONS/ EVENTS UPDATE

The communications team has been very busy behind the scenes looking at ways to improve the way we communicate with Trust members and the community at large.



As you can see, we have updated the News and are developing a new website that will provide up-to-date information on Trust activities, provide a place where

community groups can talk about their projects and include digital tools that will make life easier, for example a central booking system for community buildings.

We have set up a new Facebook page where we update the community at least twice a week with information about Trust activities. We have posted surveys, guides on how to apply for grants, developments with major projects, public consultations and lots more. We would really appreciate it if you could like and share our page to get the most up to date information out there.

It is with regret that we will have to postpone this year's Christmas Ceilidh due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are constantly looking at ways you can meet with confidence (have a look at the article about safe community spaces) and with this in mind have purchased a marquee that can cope with all weathers. This will enable the community to hold outdoor safe gatherings whilst adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. It will be available for hire and is expected to arrive in time for Christmas.

We would be delighted to hear your ideas on how we can improve communication with you. What would you like to see - and hear - from us? Please email the lead director Jillian at jillian-dir@sfctrust.org.uk with your thoughts.

DON'T JUST DREAM ABOUT IT, DO IT!

Did you know that the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust has a range of grants that are available to the community? A selection of them are detailed below, have a look and see if you think you can benefit from one of these grants!

SPORTING GRANTS

- Have you qualified or been selected for a national or international sporting competition?
- Have you qualified or are eligible to attend a national or international training camp?

If you are, that's fantastic and well done to you! You might say; "Why do they ask?" It might surprise you that the Trust will be able to help! Sporting Grants are available to help with costs and expenses associated

with competitions and camps. We realise that overnight stays and long-distance travelling can be expensive so grants can be provided to assist. Two grants per year can be applied for, up to £250 per grant. It might not be enough to cover all your costs, but it can be a helpful contribution and an encouragement for you to compete and be an ambassador for our community.

NON-CONSTITUTED GROUP GRANTS

- Do you and a few "like-minded" friends have a special interest?
- Are you thinking about forming a new group?

The Trust can help with the financial side of getting a new group started by offering a Non-Constituted Group Grant to individuals of up to £1,000 to assist with buying equipment or "formation" costs. You might need to buy special equipment or have to pay for stationery or printing costs for posters, that sort of thing. For more

information and the application form click the links below.

CONSTITUTED GROUP GRANTS

Groups who have adopted a Constitution, have a group bank account and have a minimum of 3 "officers" (eg. an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) may apply for Constituted Group Grants each year to the Trust. These grants may be for financial assistance for activities, equipment or events or, for larger projects, construction costs, etc. There are two types of group grants – the Constituted Group Grant offering up to £20,000 per grant or a Large Group Grant for grants over £20,000.

For more information take a look at our website:

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/grants-system> or contact our community liaison officer Steven at clo@sfctrust.org.uk or phone 07525 120966 for more advice and support with your application.

NEW MEETING PLACE FOR THE NORTH OF THE STRATH

Solicitors acting on behalf of Stratherrick and Foyers Trust recently completed the purchase of The Free Church in Errogie. The single storey building, dating from before the 1900's, sits in the centre of the village and was used by the Free Church until approximately two years ago, since when it has stood empty.

The rationale for purchasing the building is that it will provide a meeting place for the community in the north end of the Strath, which together with Stratherrick Public Hall and Wildside completes a network of properties that provide community meeting space where there is a concentration of households.

The role of the building will be to provide facilities for relatively small groups engaged in very specific activities such as cookery lessons, dance classes, film clubs, etc. and operate as an annexe to Stratherrick Public Hall.

The Trust directors are now establishing a steering group with volunteers from the local community who will develop a plan for how they want the building to be used. The role it plays will also be explored in the

development of the Community Action Plan that is described elsewhere in the News.

The decision to purchase the church was driven by consultations with the local community and Trust members. The majority of the households in the area were surveyed and 90% supported the idea of a meeting space on their doorstep. The comments made by people included: 'All of the investment by the Trust has been in the south of the area, it is time that facilities were developed on our doorstep'

'We live on the edge of the village and feel rather out of it. It will be great to have somewhere that we can meet our neighbours'

'It would be a wonderful space for a museum of life in the Strath. I did a show of old musical instruments and a talk on cheese making. The feeling afterwards was that it was a real shame we had nowhere for a permanent collection'

Most of the people interviewed said they would participate in an 'Errogie Church Support Club' helping to define the role of the building and to run it.

The Trust membership was also surveyed with a single question: The Trust currently owns sites at Whitebridge and Foyers and at the centre of the area is Stratherrick Public Hall. This leaves a gap at the northern end of the Strath to serve households in Errogie and Torness.

Do you agree in principle that we should provide a community meeting space in this area? It was a simple 'yes' 'no' response. The result was 70% in favour, 20% against and 10% who did not have a view. Those who were against the proposal wanted the wind farm funds to be spent on smaller benefits and expressed concern that the community will have too many meeting spaces that run the risk of being under-used.

Before purchase, architects and restoration specialists were contracted to assess the feasibility and cost of bringing the building back to life. They reported that the structure was fundamentally sound and is in reasonable condition for its age. Significant investment will be made in bringing the building up to modern standards and converting it into a multi-use community amenity.

Guided by the enthusiasm amongst local residents, the Trust decided that, although an old building brings with it an element of risk, on balance it was an excellent strategic move to enable the vision of providing doorstep amenities in every part of the area. The developed building would also contribute to a property portfolio that will form part of the legacy fund.

The next step is for the Trust to update a long-term investment plan that will provide the resources for the development and maintenance of all Trust buildings.

Gareth Jones

THE FRASERS OF FOYERS – A PERSPECTIVE FROM 1891

Lockdown or self-isolation has given some folk more time to read the books they always wanted to, or to undertake historical and family research. The Gaelic Society of Inverness 'Transactions' for 1891 - 1892 includes an article of interest to people in Foyers and the Strath. Back in December 1891, Charles Fraser MacKintosh of Drummond M.P. presented his history of the Frasers of Foyers at a meeting at the Caledonian Hotel in Inverness. It is printed in the

'Transactions' and runs to about 15 pages, all available online at the link below. The article starts with Huistean Fhrangaich (French Hugh) and documents the connection with Foyers in the Apostolic Warrant granted by Pope Paul III in 1537. The writer carries on a history of the line to Simon Fraser of Foyers – the twelfth and final Fraser Laird of Foyers.

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/11921936/download-volume-18-here-electric-scotland>

If you have difficulty accessing this article on-line please call Steven for help on 07525120966.



The Frasers of Foyers.
MINOR HIGHLAND FAMILIES,
No. 5. THE FRASERS OF FOYERS, STYLED "SLIOCHD HUISTEAN FHRANGAICH."

The three baronies of Abertarf, Stratherrick, and Durris comprehended nearly all those portions of the great Glen of Albyn which touched the eastern shores of Loch Oich, Loch Ness, and the River Ness, and in all the race of Eraser predominated. Of the once numerous Stratherrick families, that of Foyers long held a conspicuous position. It is stated, on the authority of the Wardlaw MS., that Hugh, counted third Lord Lovat, who died prior to 1502, had a natural son, Huistean, who, from long residence in France, was called "Huistean Fhrangaich," and his posterity styled "Slìochd Huistean Fhrangaich." It is not known to whom Huistean was married, nor the period of his death, but it is understood that he was portioned by his father in the lands of Easter and Wester Aberchalder, belonging to Glegarry, lying within the barony of Abertarf. Huistean was succeeded by his son, II. William Eraser, who was proprietor of the two Aberchalders, as well as Little Ballichernock and Tirchuachan, in the barony of Durris, his title being "Over Callader," or Aberchalder. In 1537, occurs the first connection of the family with Foyers, for in that year an apostolical warrant is granted by Pope Paul III. for giving in feu to William Fraser, described as "Laird Moravien," the Church lands of Boleskine and Foyers, dated at St Peter's, 4th day of the Ides of March, and 10th year of his Pontificate.



BUILDING LINKS BETWEEN GENERATIONS

The past months have been a little tough on us all, and along with others BCC has been facing many challenges. However, you will be pleased to hear that we remain resilient and ever present to support the community of Stratherrick & Foyers where we can. So here is a little update on where we are to date and what plans are in the pipeline.

Around 20 community members have been helped with foot care since Eva's first session. Please book your appointment early as this is proving a very popular service.

Sadly, due to changes in restrictions we have had to cancel the 'Movin About' classes until further notice, along with several other plans we had for MacMillan fundraising including Hub Walks and the Christmas Fayre. We will return to our regular calendar of events and activities as soon as it is possible.

On a more positive note, we do have some updates on ventures in the development pipeline. One excellent piece of news is that BCC, in partnership with The Green Team, are staging a monthly Community Market, based at Cameron's Tearooms at Foyers. The first of these was on October 31st, which went ahead despite very blustery weather. There was also a Christmas Market on 28th

November to help us prepare for some festive fun. All social distancing and government guidance will be adhered to.

A new arm to BCC will soon be launched offering distance befriending. Boleskine Helping Hands will offer a distance befriending service to members of the community who experience loneliness, isolation or who want friendship. We will be working in partnership with Highland Hospice to establish this and we invite you to make contact if this is a service you feel could benefit you, or you are interested in becoming a befriender to others. We aim to improve interaction between generations across the community, so while we would like to hear from anyone who is interested, we are particularly anxious to encourage the younger community members to play an active part in the activities and the service we provide. So, if you are over 18yrs of age and interested in becoming a BCC volunteer, please get in touch with Jayne on 07375 303 187 for an informal chat.

Care at Home continues to offer a sterling service to the community members who find themselves in need of some additional support. The team works tirelessly to provide person-centred, quality care at all times - not an easy task in these difficult circumstances with the challenges of working with PPE. BCC wants to say a huge thank you to all the care team for their dedication and loyalty to the community and BCC itself.

We also continue to offer a Transport Scheme. Our volunteer drivers have continued to work throughout lockdown, albeit in a restricted way. They have also freely given their time to deliver food boxes in support of the Brolly Group, for which BCC has been an active member since the start of the COVID restrictions. Anyone wishing to make a booking for transport should call **07944 228830**.



And finally... we say a warm welcome to our new logo. You may have already seen this in the communication letter sent out via email, but if not, here it is. We hope you like it as much as we do and will follow us on our new web pages once they have launched.

Well, that's it from BCC for now. The Chair, Kit Cameron, and all the Trustees wish the Community the very best of health.

Jayne Brinkworth
Support & Development Officer

Stay safe and remember

FACTS:

Face coverings.

Avoid crowded places.

Clean hands regularly.

Two metre distance.

Self-isolate and book a test if you have symptoms.

SAVE THE SQUIRREL AND KILL THE SKUNK!

Since 2006 BEN, established in 1999 as a forum for discussing the natural environment of Stratherrick and Foyers, has taken part in a Red Squirrel national survey using 30 metre transects within the forests of Stratherrick and Foyers. Apart from actually seeing a squirrel their presence can be identified by the 'stripped' conifer cones on the forest floor, not to be confused with the stripped cones. In 2019 we were asked by Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, part of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, to submit sightings of the animals instead. BEN is keen to continue monitoring the extent of red squirrel activity. This area has not been targeted for specific squirrel conservation, yet is an important squirrel habitat. It is also an area that is currently free of Grey Squirrels which carry a virus that is fatal to the Reds. If anyone would like to help us please get in touch. We want the date you saw the animal and where you saw it. Dead or alive! A 4 figure grid reference would be helpful but we can work it out for you if you don't have it. Please email either v.weir656@gmail.com or odonovan_jane@hotmail.com, and we will collate the data and send on to the SWT.



**SKUNK CABBAGE –
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?**
Skunk cabbage is an invasive non-native species. It hails from North America and is becoming a real threat to native habitats across the UK. Unfortunately, this includes our own Stratherrick and Foyers area, where the plant has a foothold, and is currently spreading around the shores of Loch Mhor. It spreads via seed dispersal; in the initial years of invasion this happens slowly as the plants take around three years to reach maturity and set seed. However once mature they begin to spread more quickly and start to take over completely, shading out any native vegetation. Each mature plant can produce up to 700 seeds, which are mostly spread via flowing water. A large seed bank develops and persists around colonies which means its control needs to be a long-term effort! There are now dense colonies of this plant along the Aberchalder Burn and smaller colonies in at least 9 other locations around Loch Mhor. This threatens some of the important wetland

habitats that are present around the loch and some rare species such as coralroot orchid.

B.E.N., with the support of local landowners, has kick-started a project to try and eradicate this plant from our area. We're currently applying for funding, and hope to employ a contractor to control the most dense stands and older plants and use volunteer effort to tackle smaller colonies and seedlings.

This is where we need your help – have you seen this plant, and would you be interested in helping us stop its spread around our community? Please report any sightings of this plant to alison.phillip3@gmail.com or get in touch if you'd like to join us next year over the spring/summer when we'll be out digging up this plant. It can be dirty and physical work, but it's also a great feeling to know that you are helping protect our important native habitats and species for the future.

Jane O'Donovan

SOSA2019

SALTY SEA DOGS SET SAIL

SOSA2019 recently enjoyed a splendid day out, when they took to the waves of the North Atlantic in a fleet of sleek sea Kayaks (well alright, it was Plockton Bay, but it's still salty!). Twelve intrepid members signed up for a Beginners Day with Sea Kayak Plockton and duly arrived on a sunny morning in early September. SOSA2019 member, Morag P, suggested the idea some months ago, did all the research and provided all the background information, so many thanks to her. Only in the week previous were we able to confirm that Government restrictions allowed the trip to go ahead!

Alison and Lee from Sea Kayak Plockton provided a warm welcome and gave some very thorough and enlightening instruction on the principles and theory of staying afloat - and going in the direction intended! All the kit was explained, and each member was allocated a kayak dependent on their height, weight and abilities. An appropriate waterproof suit was issued to all, although it must be said that one or two found them a slightly snug fit (the joys of lock-down!!!).

Everyone was given a thorough briefing on what to do in the event of a capsize, but were assured it was a very rare occurrence. The boats were launched - and you can guess what happened within five minutes! One intrepid member, who shall remain nameless, managed to tip himself in, in conditions that have been described as a "mill pond"! However, no harm was done and



very soon the "fleet" disappeared around a headland as they gained in confidence.

As ever, the weather did not disappoint, with spells of glorious sunshine punctuated by a tremendous down-pour and squally winds! They do say, "All the seasons in one day", and "Expedition SOSA" certainly got a fair selection. But it was all good training, and smiles prevailed throughout the day. Packed lunches were taken in a secluded cove and everyone has said what a wonderful day out they had.

The tide in Plockton goes out a long way, and there was much speculation as to how they would return, when the launch point became high and dry! "Support Team Management" looked out anxiously (from the warmth of the bar in the Plockton Hotel - excellent pint in there!) across the bay. However, eventually all twelve (we counted them out, and we counted them all in!) were spotted trudging merrily back along Plockton's Harbour Street clutching their paddles, having abandoned ship on a convenient beach around the corner. All were chatting enthusiastically about how

they'd like to do it again! Even the nameless one - (who tipped himself in yet again!) remained buoyant, so to speak!

The day was a huge success and SOSA2019 offer their sincere thanks to Alison and Lee of Sea Kayak Plockton, as well as to SFCT for very kindly supporting the event and making it possible. Folk who had never tried this before are now enthusiasts and champing at the bit to have another go!

Further events planned (when permitted) by SOSA2019 include an Outdoor Navigation Course, an Archery session, an in-depth "Outdoor" First Aid Course, a trial of sea-going rowing skiffs at Cromarty and of course our Petanque Court (or "Boulodrome"), at The Wildside Centre, is available to all. If you're interested in becoming a member, or would just like some further information, contact us on sosapiste19@gmail.com.

Peter J Faye
President
SOSA2019

Green Team

WILD FLOWER BEE BOMBS DEFEAT COVID-19

What a year the Green Team has had! We have seen our group grow since the beginning of the year and managed to do such a lot despite the COVID-19 restrictions - with the support and interaction of our community we have pulled together in true community spirit!

So far more than over 100 bags of compost and £3000 worth of plants, veg

and garden supplies have been delivered to our community. Our Potting Shed did well, helping distribute plants and exchange seedlings within our area. A whopping 100 bags of Bee Bombs went out, which is enough wildflower seed to cover 2100 square feet with native wildflowers, a true bee utopia in the making!

We also did our e-bike trial, with really positive feedback, and we hope to be able to consider purchasing some for our community in 2021.

We had a great response to our willow weaving course, with 40 Green Teamers booked in for basket making later this year. This should be a fun educational

course where everyone is able to take home the basket they've made.

For next year we hope to get our Community Garden up and running, with a focus on green living, well-being and much, much more! We would love nothing more than for our community to get involved and let us know what you would like us to focus on. We have many interesting chats on our Facebook page, from environmental topics, hedgehogs, squirrels, gardening, community events, advice, etc. Please follow us or email us for more information, membership and updates... sfc-greenteam@outlook.com

Karla Stewart
S&F Green Team



Green Team

HINTS AND TIPS TO GROW YOUR OWN

Now we are in Winter it is easy to think that it is time to pack-up in the garden and head inside. However this is a great time to start planning for next year and consider any new projects. If you're joining the grow-your-own craze, then a few hours spent outside now can save a lot of time and help get better results in the Spring.

Now is the perfect time to start preparing the soil for vegetable beds. By digging them over, organic matter can be added to improve soil structure and add nutrition. This will start to break down and be absorbed by the soil ready to go in the Spring. Also, before they go dormant, this an ideal time to dig out and remove perennial weeds. It's important to plan and add the correct nutrient and media to the soil. If growing potatoes, then adding plenty of well-rotted manure is ideal. But for growing carrots this will not help, and it is much better to add sand to to achieve

a lighter and more well drained soil. Once this is done, cover the soil with a black fabric to help keep out any weed seeds, and this will also assist with warming the soil.

TOP TIP!!

In the Spring remove the black covering about two weeks prior to planting and replace it with clear polythene. This will let the light and humidity increase below, causing any weed seeds to germinate. Uncover and remove the weeds prior to planting. By racking over the soil, eggs from slugs and leather jackets will be exposed and the birds will feed off these, thus reducing pests later in the season.

If all this sounds too much like hard work, then now is an ideal time to build raised beds that can be much easier to manage and care for.

FRUIT

what you can do now is replace fruit trees and bushes. The ground is moist and still has some warmth which is ideal for establishing a good root system. There is a wide range of species available, with varieties suitable for everyone. I strongly believe that every garden has room

for three trees, no matter what the size. Many fruit trees, especially apples, are available in dwarf varieties that are also suitable for growing in containers if space is limited. These will grow just as well if you follow the three golden rules :-

1. Use a good quality potting compost such as John Innes no. 3 that is loam based and low in peat. This will hold nutrients and moisture much better.
2. Use a planter or pot as large as possible. This means there is more compost for the roots and it won't dry out as quickly.
3. Remember to feed regularly. A high potash feed will help to improve the yield and quality of the crop.

Many types of soft fruit bushes such as Blueberries, Blackberries and Raspberries will also perform well in containers if you follow the steps above.

If you have any gardening questions you would like answered why not email us at sfc-greenteam@outlook.com

Dale Lainton,
S&F Green Team Horticulturist

YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU!

As you are no doubt aware, for over seven months Stratherrick Public Hall in Gorthleck has been unable to open to the public due to Scottish Government Covid-19 restrictions. The Management Committee have been consulting during this period, but as we look forward and try to anticipate what further restrictions might be enacted and for how long, it is becoming obvious that the Hall is unlikely to reopen before or for Christmas. This will mean no Children's Christmas Parties, Christmas Carol Service or Community Ceilidh as in previous years. It is, in fact, probable that the Hall is unlikely to reopen before Easter next year, but that will totally depend on public health developments over the winter. It is deeply sad that our Community Hub, normally used for so many events, groups and gatherings, is being denied to everyone in the Stratherrick & Foyers area, but obviously the wider public health issues currently prevailing take precedence.

The Hall Management Committee was unable to hold this year's AGM in March, and both our Treasurer and Bookings Secretary have intimated that they will be standing down at 31st December this year - both Janet Hobson and Pam Simpson have served on the Committee for many years, but now feel that the time is right for new blood to help with the administration of what is an important asset for our Community. The Management Committee is deeply grateful for both Janet and Pam's commitment and work over the years, and will miss their valuable and cheery contributions to our quarterly Committee Meetings.

In order to remain quorate and legally able to operate, the Committee now urgently requires new members, and we are now appealing to the Community for volunteers to join the Hall Management Committee. Although helping to operate what is a vital Community Hub, Management Committee membership is not hugely demanding - meetings are held quarterly to discuss and update all issues involved with running and maintaining the Hall, although there is obviously regular liaison between the members.

However, and I must stress this point, we need new members from the Community or the Hall will not be able to operate - if you want the Hall to continue to provide a vital facility for the use of the entire Community, people will have to come forward to help with the running of this asset.

With the present financial backing of Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust many groups and local organisations are able to access and use the Hall at no cost, and it is only fair that the Community helps to ensure the Hall's future.

If you are willing to consider joining the Hall Management Committee please contact the Chairman, Hugh Nicol, on 01456 486350, or any Committee Member whom you may know.

Hugh Nicol
Chair, Stratherrick Public Hall Management Committee

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

MAKE A DATE WITH SLHG

Boleskine and Dores Calendar 2021, pictures around our area of bygone times.

On Sale now, cost £12.
An ideal Christmas present.

Contact Alister Chisholm
01463715713.



South Loch Ness
Heritage Group

HISTORY MAKING PUT ON HOLD... FOR NOW

Since March the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed the groups public activities; our spring talk "Maps, map makers and map making: stories from the Lovat Estate" by Roland Spencer Jones was cancelled just prior to lockdown. Our proposed talk in October following our AGM was to be by Norman Newton: "Inverness Klondikers in the Yukon, 1898: Four explorers and an eccentric Free Church minister", also had to be cancelled.

Both talks had particular relevance to this area, because large tracts of Stratherrick were owned by the Lovat estate in former times, and the eccentric Free Church minister was born at Knock where his relatives still lived till the sixties. It is hoped to have those talks when the Hall is open

under more favourable restrictions. Both summer events have also fallen by the wayside - a trip to Invergarry Railway Station to see the work done by the Invergarry Station Preservation Society, and a trip to the restored Kirkmichael Church in the Black Isle to look at the restoration work inside the church and adjoining graveyard.

The group's work recording the gravestones in Boleskine Cemetery has also been suspended for the time being.

Our main presence during Covid has been online via our website and Facebook page
<https://southlochnessheritage.co.uk/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/South-Loch-Ness-Heritage-Group-548378052028461/>.

Facebook features a recent article "A Loch side tragedy, the final flight of Royal Navy Stinson Reliant serial FK943" which crashed at Inverfarigaig in 1944. The web site has two new articles: " Library, Local Women's Rural Institutes, a brief description of branches in Dores, Foyers and Stratherrick" and "Errogie School and

Manse memories, an account of life in the district in the early nineteen fifties". Both articles feature relevant pictures.

This year after an absence in 2020 due to lack of suitable pictures, we hope to produce a calendar: "Old Boleskine & Dores 2021". If you require a calendar on pre order, contact A Chisholm on 01463715713. Further details on how to purchase one will be posted on local notice boards and Facebook when they are available.

Alister Chisholm



South Loch Ness Heritage Group

SAVE WADE BRIDGE'S SECRET TWIN

One of the projects run by the South Loch Ness Heritage Group is the Wade Bridge at Whitebridge, for which a separate trust was set up in 2009 to try to prevent the bridge from deteriorating. If you push through the birch woods next to the Inverfarigaig road over the River Farigaig, you can see the partial collapse of the other similar Wade Bridge, despite efforts by the Forestry Commission to strengthen it.

First Aid work was carried out at Whitebridge in 2010 to grout the vulnerable abutments, and this work has helped to resist subsequent river floods. The Trust now regularly cuts back young trees threatening to grow out of the stonework and watches nervously for signs of deterioration. If future funding can be found, the Trust has ambitious plans for comprehensive preservation.

Go to <http://southlochnessheritage.co.uk/wade-bridge-at-whitebridge> for further information.





Stratherrick Spin & Chatter Group

MOVE OVER SPIELBERG!

Since March and the start of lockdown, like so many groups and events, Stratherrick Spin & Chatter Group temporarily postponed their weekly meetings. As lockdown began to ease, we started to think about how and when we could resume meetings safely. We thought Worldwide Spinning In Public Day on 19th September would be a good day for several members to get together out of doors. Last year we took our spinning wheels to the Loch Ness Shores Caravan Park, Foyers Stores & Waterfall Cafe, Cameron's Tearoom, and Stratherrick Hall.

However, as Covid numbers rose and new restrictions came into being, many of us felt uncomfortable being in open public spaces, so we decided to embrace modern technology and meet via Zoom.

To achieve this involved learning how to use Zoom! Some of us had participated in Zoom meetings, but never hosted, issued invites or, most importantly, used the Zoom record facility.

A few of us had a practice meeting one evening, and it went so well we decided to meet for Worldwide Spinning

In Public Day, record it and publish the resulting video publicly on various social media platforms. Simple...!

On 19th September a group of us meet via Zoom with our spinning wheels duly dusted and oiled.

Two new members that had joined the group also joined in. We all spun and chattered and had a lovely time. The resulting recording was long, full of chatter, gossip, fun, laughter and, I admit, some cackling. "Hmm" said some, "can we take out the cackles", others said "could we add music".

"Ummm" I said "I need to learn how to edit videos!". So after much trial and error, we had a 10 minute video ready for publication.

It's not perfect but it does show us enjoying spinning. It also goes to show, you are never too old to embrace technology and learn new skills... Steven Spielberg move over!

If you would like to see our effort, you'll find the YouTube link below.

<https://youtu.be/CWXWXJmrVVg>

Glenda Bailey

The Lunch Club

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Due to Covid 19 there have been no lunch club meetings since the beginning of the year, but we have been keeping in touch with our members by telephoning them regularly.

We chat with them to check that they are ok and pass on any local news from the Strath that they may not have heard.

As part of our future planning we have secured an £800 COVID-19 grant from the Trust, this is to be used, when it is safe to do so, for afternoon tea and some take away fish and chips at the Hall even if it's not until Easter!!

Janet Hobson

Wild Crafts

FUN CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY FOR THE KIDS



It has been a long time since our last crafting day took place in February and we hope you are all safe and well. We had thought we would be able to restart our monthly meetings in the Summer but sadly this was not to be. Hopefully many of you have continued crafting and using up some of your stash of materials.

I know many of you have been busy making fabulous face masks, but I also know that many folk have not felt up to doing their usual crafts... and I admit I am one of them. Instead I have sorted cupboards, reclaimed the garden, painted the outside of the house and knitted a jumper.

However, I recently got my spinning wheel out and realised just how much I do love it.

I have also started to sort all my stash of various crafting materials, and my thoughts are starting to turn to making Christmas ornaments and gifts - I am sure several of you are starting to think along these lines too.

To start with something relatively simple, I thought that some new Salt Dough Ornaments for the tree might be in order.

Perhaps this is something you may like to make. A great fun thing to do with the kids.

SALT DOUGH RECIPE

- 1 cup (250g) Plain Flour
- 1/2 cup (125g) Salt
- 1/2 cup (125g) Warm water (about 125ml)

Preheat the oven to its lowest setting and line a baking sheet with baking parchment.

Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add the water and stir until it comes together into a ball.

Transfer to a floured work surface and knead until dough is smooth & firm (5-10 mins).

Roll out dough, and use Christmas cutters for desired shapes. Use a straw to make a hole for hanging. Bake in oven until fully dry (for hanging ornaments allow about 1 hour, standing ornaments will take a lot longer).

Cool completely before painting. Once decorated you can seal ornaments with clear varnish.

Some ideas...

Lyn Woods

Baby & Toddler Group

SURPRISE GROWTH SPURT!

Our Baby and Toddler Group has grown rapidly since the last edition!

We now have 14 families in the Stratherrick & Foyers area, but unfortunately we haven't all been able to meet up with each other over the last few months.

However, when we did manage to meet, the rendezvous has been either at Foyers Playpark or The Camerons Tearooms, both where the children can roam freely outside!

Whenever COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, our meetings will be held on Thursday mornings between 9:30 am

and 11:30 am at The Wildside Centre in Whitebridge.

There are toys, soft play and climbing equipment, together with tea, coffee, biscuits, and sometimes even cake!

Thanks to funding from The Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust we are in the process of ordering some new outdoor toys to help with social distancing - we are also booking some Messy Ness Sensory Sessions, and are hoping to hold a coffee and cake event when the guidelines allow us to meet properly!

If you are interested in coming along or need more information, please message: 'Wildside Baby & Toddler Group' on Facebook! It's Free & Fun! We hope to see you all soon!

Kirsty Balfour
Jillian Barclay



Holly



Lachlan

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY.

What is your vision for the future of your Community? What recreational, social and community facilities would you like to see provided on your doorstep? How do you think the income we are receiving from the wind farms and hydro schemes should be spent?

These, and many, many more, are the questions the residents of the Strath and Foyers will be asked as part of a major consultation process that Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust has just kicked off.

A company called Nick Wright Planning has been commissioned to work with the residents of Stratherrick and Foyers to develop a Community Action Plan. This will describe what the community wants to achieve with the funding that flows into the area from the wind farm and hydro schemes. It will build on the CAP produced in 2013; working with the people who live in the area to clarify the current problems that should be tackled and the opportunities to improve life in our Community.

Nick Wright Planning, based in Johnstone, is a consortium of experts that specialise in helping communities envision how they want the place where they live to evolve and then setting out the road map that will get them to the destination. The objective is to set out a plan that has the backing of the community. This in turn provides a clear mandate for the Trust on what it has to achieve over the next few years.

The plan will set out the long-term priorities that the local community and other public and private sector partners can work towards. Nick and his team are committed to avoiding a pie-in-the-sky wish-list by providing a plan that is based on concrete costed actions that have a ten-year plus horizon.

The Trust is currently working with the team to refine the approach which will be based on the following steps:

- Asking you what do you want?..... What kind of community do you want to live in?
- What do you want to do?..... Draft a concrete set of costed services and amenities.
- How do you want to do it?..... Engage the people living in the area, voluntary organisations and delivery partners, such as The Highland Council, in designing the best way of getting involved in delivering the plan.
- Finalise and publish a Community Action plan..... Pulling all the threads together into a comprehensive document that has the support of the community

Nick and his team recognise that the consultation process will be made more difficult by the COVID-19 restrictions and they are looking at how they can use online technologies to ensure they reach into every corner of the community.

December will be used to plan the consultation process in detail so please watch out for invitations to consultation sessions, which will start to appear in your inbox, on Facebook and on notice boards in January.

Gareth Jones
Vice Chair, S&FCT



AUTUMN EDIBLES

The cycle of nature, and not to mention a polytunnel!, does mean that you can enjoy home grown food all year round. Harvesting a crop is also the cue to plant the seeds that will put food on your table next season. Hopefully, I can get an early spring crop of mizuna, golden frills, lambs lettuce, pak choi and spinach. Fingers crossed!

Margie Elgar-Bond



BCC VISION TO SUPPORT ALL AGES AND STAGES

As the community will be aware, Boleskine Community Care (BCC) was established in 2013 by a steering group set up following the growing concern that care provision for this rural community was at best limited.

BCC was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which this gives it the dual benefit of Charitable status together with its registration as a company at Companies House.

BCC operation is funded by a grant from Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust. The Organisation is run by volunteer trustees together with significant input and influence from it's community groups and dedicated volunteers.

With the desire from the community for increased services to be offered, it is felt that now is the appropriate time to start planning to improve inclusivity and connectivity across the whole of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community. To undertake this will be a big step forward for BCC, but we

have a vision for a project that we would like to share with you all. Core to the vision is provision of benefits to everyone who resides in the Stratherrick & Foyers community, irrespective of age and/or ability. It sets out to achieve cohesion and inclusion across the generations, aiming to build and bring together a strong and resilient community that is supportive, forward thinking and offers facilities in an equitable way to its diverse population. Beneficiaries of this proposal are likely to include:

- Younger people and young families of this rural community who may require a focus where recreational activities, hobbies and interests can be explored and provided for.
- Adults who may require opportunities to minimise social isolation, maintain wellbeing and generate a community spirit where they are included and cared about.
- Senior community members who need provision that is accessible and supportive of their health and wellbeing. An environment where they feel safe as well as valued in the community for their contributions.
- The community overall. This proposal will increase the appeal of living in this area and so will enhance its sustainability and prosperity.

The centrepiece of the vision is a centre that will be as environmentally benign and energy efficient as possible. The proposed development should also provide some additional employment for the local community, with management of the facility proposed to be through a Steering Committee formed from volunteers from all the user groups together with representatives from BCC and SFCT. This would provide guidance on the development and management of the centre. This would ensure the essential input from the Community and involvement of all 'users'.

The Charity has plans to change its name to Boleskine Community Connexions as a first step towards its future vision, embracing Boleskine Community Care and Boleskine Helping Hands as vital elements of its business. So watch this space, we are in for a busy, productive, and eventful few years. Take a look at the conceptual floor plan below and I am sure you will agree this truly is a vision to take the Community forward for at least the next 25years, putting Stratherrick and Foyers community firmly back on the map!

Kit Cameron
Chair BCC



The New Centre Proposed Site Plan (illustrative purposes only)

POLYTUNNEL PLUNDER IN HIGH SUMMER

This year I had the distinct feeling I was plundering the produce of my upturned goodly ship, the polytunnel, in an attempt to sail away from the woes of a difficult year.

In previous years I hadn't been so successful with growing vegetables in my polytunnel but this year I had the time to put in. I learnt a few things and I think I cracked it a bit, - and others will have excellent tips as well!



I made compost from waste vegetable kitchen scraps - a good start. I have two compost bins created from light concrete blocks, uncemented, so I can loosen a couple of bricks to create an aperture (like a coal hole) to shovel out the compost at a comfortable height and into a wheelbarrow. I intersperse vegetable scraps with newspaper and sometimes leave the corrugated iron sheet lid off the bin to let in rain to add moisture that helps the breakdown into compost. Sometimes I throw the odd bucket of comfrey leaves in as a compost accelerator. It takes a year to compost each bin - so I have one bin left untouched, composting, and one in use.

This has formed the basis of my planting regime. I use 5 gallon felt pots for different vegetables, which helps with lifting. I mixed last year's soil with this year's new compost to boost the nutrients and to create plenty of soil. Mixing was done in a large flexible plastic container (with handles) obtained from a DIY store, and then I filled my 5 gallon felt pots (with handles) and sowed my seeds.

I used comfrey "juice" to water the plants occasionally. This "juice" is made from the leaves of the comfrey plant, mixed with a few buckets of water, placed in my flexible plastic container and left outside the polytunnel for a week. It is continually added to consequently it is a bit pongy!

The seeds came from an organic gardening catalogue and rarely fail. The chinese greens, Mizuna, Pak Choi and Wasabi leaves are a new salad experience and tangy too. Lots of greens best eaten when first picked; chards and kales, lovely herbs to perk up salads, tomatoes, french beans and grapes! And they are sweet! Some plants get too hot and are placed outside the polytunnel, hence the 5 gallon pots are relatively easy to move about.

So my upturned goodly struttred plastic ship, the polytunnel, has safely sailed me into the delights of pirating the plunder of nature for another year!

Margie Elgar-Bond

PICTURE PERFECT

The joy of living in this part of the world is the fantastic opportunity to snap some beautiful photos. Proud of your pictures? Then here is the place to share them with everyone. Ros Nicol headed into the highways and byways to capture some familiar flowers in all their blooming glory.



MO'S FARMHOUSE RECIPES



Plain Scones

INGREDIENTS

1lb 8oz self-raising flour
4.5oz caster sugar
3 tsp baking powder
4.5oz butter (softened) - *I prefer unsalted*
3 eggs
9 fl oz milk

METHOD

Put all your dry ingredients into a bowl, or mixer if you have one, add your butter, mix until combined or breadcrumb like. Add your eggs one at a time, with a mixer on low, followed by your milk. I like to add

1tsp of good vanilla essence to my milk (optional).

The mixture will come together, it should be quite sticky, that's what you want. Turn it out onto a floured surface, try not to handle the mixture

too much.

Cut into rounds - should make 16-18 scones.

Brush each one with a beaten egg, bake for 12-14 mins at 220C.



Delicious Cheese & Mustard Scones

METHOD

Same as Plain scone recipe

INGREDIENTS

1lb 8oz self-raising flour
4.5oz caster sugar
3 tsp baking powder
4.5oz butter (softened) - *I prefer unsalted*
3 eggs
9 fl oz milk with 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
4oz Mature Cheddar



Chocolate Banana Bread

INGREDIENTS

banana (mashed) 200g
plain flour 150g
caster sugar 150g
bicarbonate of soda 1tsp
baking powder 1tsp
2 eggs
milk 2 tbsp
butter (softened) 100g
Dairy Milk chunk 100g

METHOD

Preheat oven at 140°C
Add all ingredient to mixer and mix till smooth. Fold in 100g chunks of Dairy Milk chocolate. Pour into a casing and bake on a low shelf for 50 minutes at 140°C. Leave to cool.

Coffee & Walnut Cake

INGREDIENTS

225g unsalted butter
225g caster sugar
225g self raising flour
4 large eggs
2 generous tsp coffee granules
(dissolve in 50ml warm water)
75g chopped walnuts

THE TOPPING

125g butter
225g icing sugar
3 tps coffee granules (dissolve in 1 tsp water)
walnuts to decorate



METHOD

Place the butter into a large mixing bowl and beat until light and smooth. Add the sugar and cream together until light and fluffy. Next add eggs, 1 at a time, making sure to mix well to completely incorporate each egg before adding the next egg. Add the dissolved coffee to the mixture and

mix well. Add the flour and chopped walnuts, fold in until fully combined.

Divide the mixture into two 20cm cake tins, greased and lined with parchment.

Bake for 25-30 mins at 180C.

BUTTER ICING

Beat the butter in a bowl until pale and smooth, then gradually beat in the icing sugar, add the espresso and mix well.

Victoria Sponge Cake

INGREDIENTS

200g caster sugar
200g butter (at room temperature)
4 eggs (beaten)
200g self raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 tbsp milk



METHOD

Grease and line two 20cm round cake tins. Cream together butter, sugar, flour, eggs, baking powder and the milk. Beat together well with an electric whisk until well combined and light and fluffy.

Divide the mixture between the two cake tins, bake in the oven for about 20 mins at 190C.

When your cake has cooled, spread some raspberry jam onto one cake and top with whipped cream,

sandwich together, get the kettle on and enjoy!

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES THROUGH

There are a number of key dates in history that we can all recall; 1945, 1966, July 1969, 9/11. And now we have a new one, March 24, 2020; the date that Boris Johnson announced the complete lock down of the UK, banning people from leaving their homes.

For many, the impact was catastrophic as shops, industry, leisure activities etc. were all ordered to close. No community no matter how large or small could escape the economic and social pain inflicted by the lock-down. Voluntary groups across the Highlands rapidly mobilised to put in place initiatives to ease the financial and emotional impact.

As The Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson, and our ward councillor, described at a Brolly Group COVID-19 Recovery meeting, the huge voluntary effort the pandemic triggered was extraordinary. "It is hard to believe the response; more than 330 volunteer groups came together across the Highlands to provide support during the lock-down. It is something we can all be proud of."

The rapid response in South Loch Ness was no different. Community leaders led by Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council (SFCC), Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust (SFCT), The Knockie Trust and Boleskine Community Care, quickly came together under the banner 'The Brolly Group' to design and implement a set of initiatives to support the households that would be badly affected. The package included help for the elderly who had become

isolated in their homes and those at highest risk and for who had to be shielded, financial support for people who suddenly saw their incomes disappear, food boxes for people who couldn't get deliveries or were struggling to afford the essentials etc.

This was the moment that the income the community receives from the wind farms and hydro schemes suddenly became extremely valuable. Urgent meetings were held with the funders, SSE and Greencoat, to get permission to divert the income towards COVID-19 projects. Additional funds were received from the SFCC and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) (for which special thanks to the community council administrator Sharon for securing this grant.) To date, the amount spent in the area on these initiatives is close to £40,000.

Cash grants and loans account for approximately half of this. It is a substantial sum of money, but the real value can only be understood when you get an insight into the difference these initiatives made at a human level. Sharon describes elsewhere how valuable the food boxes and larders proved to be.

The impact of the cash grants was also greatly valued. When the Trust asked the recipients how they rated the support, everyone found it extremely or very helpful. Their feedback included:

'It was the ability to pay the bills while we waited for Universal Credit payments to come through that was so helpful'

'I suddenly lost my part time job leading to a sudden loss of income. I was reliant on B&B income through the summer months to see me through the winter. The money from the Trust was extremely helpful'

'For reasons I could not have anticipated, I was barred from receiving furlough payments leaving me with no income, I was very grateful for the money from the Trust'

'I am self-employed and didn't have the paperwork necessary to receive the small business support. I went from having a reasonable income to nothing.'

'I work in the hospitality industry and when the tourists stopped coming that was the end of my job. It was quite shocking how quickly life went from normal to extremely tough to make ends meet'

The team within the Trust responsible for managing the grants spent many hours establishing the criteria that meant the support reached those people who were genuinely in need. The Trust relied on the applicant's honesty when they said help was needed. This faith was amply rewarded. Each time the Trust checked that the need was still there, the numbers seeking financial help fell as households across the community got back onto their own two feet.

Although the initiatives were led by the community groups leaders they were supported by a band of volunteers who happily gave up their free time to support the projects, whether this was to manage the distribution of the financial support, purchase the food, distribute the boxes, re-stock the larders etc. Trying to list them all would inevitably leave someone out. You know who you are and a massive thank you for your efforts from the whole of the community.

Meanwhile the 'Brolly Group' continues to develop and put in place initiatives to support the community as we exit the worst effects of the pandemic. You will read elsewhere in the News about the projects to put in place safe spaces and the 'Winter Wonderland' walk, an event designed to put a smile on everyone's face after what has been a tough time for all.

Funds are still available, and the Trust and Brolly Group would welcome ideas from you on how this could be best spent to ease the damaging continuing impact of the pandemic.

Gareth Jones
Chair. The Boleskine Brolly Group

(The dates at the beginning of this article? End of the Second World War, England won the World Cup, first man to walk on the moon, terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York)

VOLUNTEERS DELIVER HUNDREDS OF FOOD BOXES



One of the main activities of the Boleskine Brolly Group through lockdown and beyond was the provision and delivery of free food boxes. These were available to anyone in the Community that found themselves struggling for any reason, be that economic, unable to get to the shops etc. The main bulk of the boxes was made up of fruit and vegetables that the group ordered in weekly via the Whitebridge Hotel. There was also bread and milk and sometimes dry goods purchased from Foyers Stores who made special trips into the cash and carry to get the supplies. The boxes were made up by the super staff and owners at the Hotel then collected weekly and distributed to recipients homes by an amazing bunch of volunteers without whose help, this would not have been possible. Every week, rain or shine, five or six volunteer drivers would load up the boxes of high quality vegetables and bread and head to the distant corners of the Strath, sometimes down muddy rutted tracks, to deliver them to the recipient's door.

The boxes were welcomed and appreciated by all; not only was it the practical help of food being delivered but the feeling that someone cared. It was the opportunity to see a friendly face once a week, even if no one was closer than a couple of metres from the door or over the garden gate! Every 4 weeks, a survey was handed out to those receiving the boxes to confirm the need and receive accurate feedback on what was required.

These forms, like the whole service, were highly confidential but the comments were just lovely. The reasons why people found the service so helpful ranged from high risk individuals who were not allowed to leave their homes, sudden financial difficulties, inability to drive, absence of public transport, loss of a regular driver etc. The food also provided the ingredients for meals that carers could prepare at the recipient's home. A stark reminder of the devastating impact of the lockdown on those most at risk in our community.

The group also received thank you cards which were very much appreciated.

The scheme, which also included maintaining food larders throughout the area, ran from May until the end of September, a total of 20 weeks, with at its peak more than 40 boxes being delivered every week, down to 17 at the end. The numbers varied as things improved for some folk or deteriorated for others. This project was funded by Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council Micro grant, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Scottish Government funding). The Boleskine Brolly Group would like to thank all the funders, local businesses and all the volunteers involved in the planning and delivery of this extremely worthwhile project.

Sharon Ferguson

PADDLERS ENJOY A REASONABLE RIGHT

We are blessed in Stratherrick with many beautiful lochs and rivers, which a growing number of us are starting to enjoy from canoes, stand up paddle boards and rowing boats. As a valuable means of promoting exercise, general good health and wellbeing, it is however important to carry out these activities responsibly - for the benefit of all concerned. For those not already aware, both paddlers and landowners, the public have a reasonable right of access to the Scottish countryside under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. As far as paddlesports are concerned, here is what the Access Code states;

“Access rights extend to non-motorised water-based activities, such as canoeing, rafting, rowing and sailing. Make sure that the river, loch or reservoir is appropriate for your activity and the numbers involved, take care not to interfere unreasonably with other interests and avoid going close to water intakes, abstraction points or spillways.

On some water bodies that are intensively used for a wide range of activities, various management measures, such as zoning and byelaws, may be needed for safety or water quality reasons and to protect the environment. Follow any agreed guidance provided.

Respect the needs of anglers by avoiding nets or other fishing tackle. When close to anglers keep noise and other disturbance to a minimum. On lochs, keep a safe distance from anglers. On rivers or other confined waters, await a signal from the angler or ghillie to proceed if they have a line in the water and follow any suggested route they indicate if safe and practicable to do so.

Take extra care when entering and leaving water to avoid damaging the banks or disturbing wildlife, and use a public slipway if one is close by.”

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all>



Boleskine Brolly Group

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE

Are you feeling anxious or worried as we slowly emerge from lockdown? Perhaps you are concerned about your health, protecting parents you have been shielding or unsure on the latest rules on social distancing.

To help you adjust to life post-lockdown, voluntary organisations in Stratherrick and Foyers have been working together to put in place safe environments exclusively for the use of residents. This includes

- Meeting places you can visit secure in the knowledge that COVID-19 hygiene regulations are being rigorously followed.
- Availability of COVID-19 secure transport in vehicles that comply with health and safety guidance that protect driver and passenger
- Events for all age groups to encourage social contact disrupted by the lockdown

The aim is to create safe 'corridors' that local residents can use, especially those in high-risk categories, to travel from home to meeting places and back again at lowest risk.

SAFE SPACES

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust, Stratherrick Hall Voluntary Management Committee and Boleskine Community Care are working together to develop a common approach to making their buildings as safe as possible. The properties are Wildside, Whitebridge, Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck and The Hub in Lower Foyers. There will be face masks and hand sanitisers available and the latest guidelines on social distancing. For group leaders there will be antiseptic cleaning products and detailed guidance on how to prepare the rooms they are using and then leave them safe for others.

THE WILDSIDE CENTRE

Booking will be available for Wildside

through our new online system or through admin. Conditions of Booking will include 'track and trace info' of who has used the building and when, and also a Cleaning Schedule that individuals/ groups will have to adhere to after use. Cleaning products will be available onsite.

Wildside has 2 large function rooms, kitchen access, toilets including disabled access and baby changing facilities, a range of chairs and tables, comfy seating, Boulodrome/Petanque Court and equipment, toddler play toys, paths around the grounds and free WIFI.

For ALL bookings, please contact Laura at: admin@sfctrust.org.uk or book online at: <https://v2.hallmaster.co.uk/Diary/MainPanel/9993>

THE HUB

The Hub is working with Brolly group members from SFCT, SFCC, BCC and the Knockie Trust to ensure we have a safe space that complies with Scottish Government guidance. We are able to provide risk assessed premises that have sanitising stations throughout, PPE for use by its visitors and volunteers and a building that observes all government guidance on social distancing and good infection control. You will be expected to participate in our track and control system by leaving your contact details.

While foot care services continue to operate, the Hub is not open for group activities or meetings at present. In the next few weeks, we are planning to launch our new service, Boleskine Helping Hands Befriending - this will be advertised on our webpage and Facebook page.

For ALL bookings, including foot care appointments, please contact Jayne on 07375303187 or land line with our message facility: 01456 486247

STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL

The team managing the hall will apply the same safety standards when it reopens in the New Year.

SAFE TRANSPORT

Safe transport is being provided by Boleskine Community Care based on their current transport scheme. Driver 'bubbles' have been installed into the

vehicles and provide screen protection between driver and passenger. Their drivers also wear PPE for added protection and will require all passengers travelling, for all journeys, to be seated in the rear of the vehicle. Sanitising of the vehicle takes place after each use and ensures the space remains safe for future journeys. Social distancing always applies in line with Scottish Government guidelines.

The transport scheme operates between 8.30 am and 6.30pm plus evening surgery times. You have to give 24 hours' notice. You will be asked to register and will be issued with an ID card with your membership number. Please remember that it is operated by volunteers who are using their own cars.

To book a journey please phone 07944 228830 between 10am and 3pm on a weekday and between 10am and 12 noon on a Saturday. Outside of these hours, leave a message and someone will get back to you.



The Hub



Gorthleck Hall



Wildside Centre

RE-WIRING THE STRATH'S SOCIAL NETWORKS

The damaging economic impact of the pandemic on our communities is only too clear; across the Highlands unemployment is up, businesses are closing and the latest report from the Scottish Government forecasts that the economy will not return to pre-pandemic levels until the end of next year.

However, as we have all experienced, it is the toll COVID-19 has taken on

the emotional health of people in our community that is most insidious. In other parts of the News you will read about the community groups that have been unable to meet up. For some, especially those living alone, this has increased a sense of isolation and loneliness. At a meeting of all the local voluntary group leaders, organised under the umbrella of the Boleskine Brolly Group, it was agreed to put in place activities that could help to build the social cohesion of our community.

The Trust has made available a micro-grant that a voluntary organisations

can use for activities that address the damaging impact of the lockdown.

This was part of an 'exit plan' that also includes the provision of safe transport and meeting spaces where people can get together in the knowledge that hygiene regulations designed to reduce transmission of the infection are being implemented to the full. The Strath is blessed with numerous voluntary organisations and below are some of the activities they have planned that will help to get the young and old to meet up and enjoy a good craic!

Gareth Jones

ORGANISATION		EVENT
SOSA19		Petanque competition (with prizes!) to be held at Wildside. This will provide an opportunity for friends and members to meet up again after a prolonged period of lockdown and begin to make plans for normality
Stratherrick Primary Parent Council		Visit to the Highland Wildlife Park. This provided an opportunity for school pals to meet for the first time just before they went back to school
Friends of Inverness Royal Academy		One-to-one English lessons and coaching to close gaps caused by the lock-down
Lunch Club		Opportunity for Lunch Club members to get together and enjoy a cup of tea and fish and chips
Stratherrick Public Hall Management Committee		A cuppa and catch up for anyone who can attend. The grant includes the purchase of a steam mop and disposable cups and plates in order that the hall can be as safe as possible
Baby and Toddler		A welcome back party for all the wee ones in the Strath. This includes the provision of sensory play and toys to encourage social interaction
Boleskine Community Care		Tablets that can be used by BCC volunteers to talk to people who are shielding and living alone. The objective is to reduce the feeling of isolation
Inverfarigaig Residents Group		A gazebo and seating for members of the IRG to enable outdoor meetings close to where they live

UNSUNG HEROES

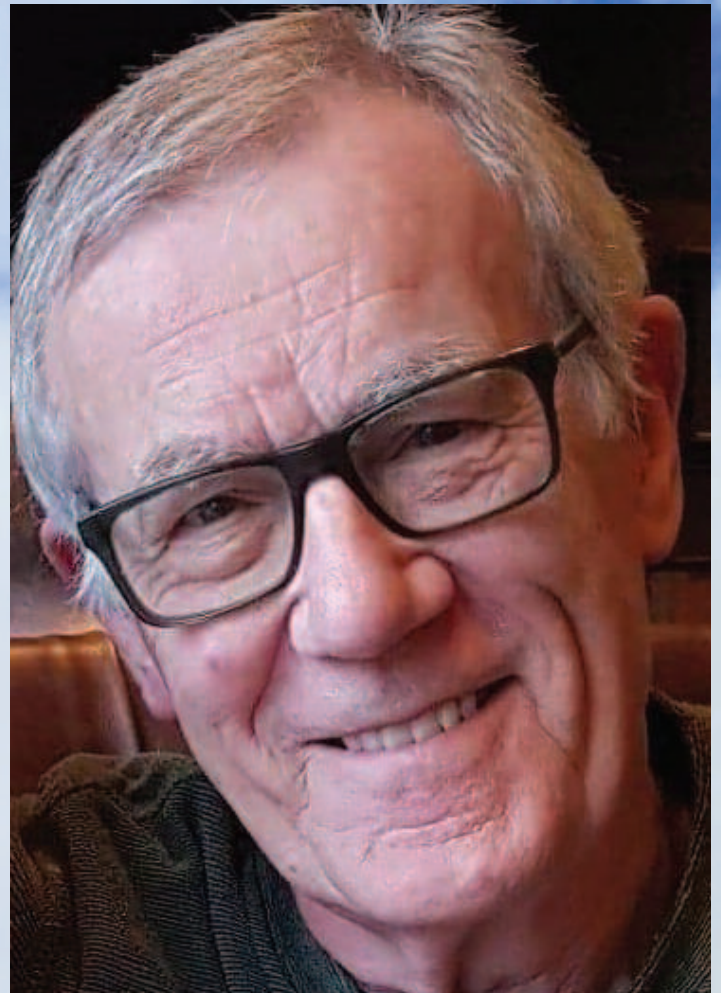
The purpose of this section is to pay tribute to the 'Unsung Heroes' within our community. These are the people who quietly and without recompense contribute their time and effort to making the place a better place to live in. If there is someone you would like to nominate for inclusion in the next edition, please get in touch. Here we highlight the work of Frank Ellam, the finance director of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust.

Bear with me here. Imagine you had a car that started life as a very basic model, then you added all sorts of extras and bigger engines, year, after year, after year. It needed to be looked after, but as it got more and more complex, this became more and more daunting – and expensive. And then, along came a hugely qualified, expert, enthusiastic and very highly skilled mechanic and he said: "I'll look after that for you – and I'll do it all for free. And what's more, I'll be your friend, teach you how to drive responsibly and make your car last a long, long time." An incredibly happy day indeed!

Well, instead of a car, substitute SFCT's Funds and Accounts – and that is exactly what happened – except he wasn't a mechanic, he was a Chartered Accountant called Frank Ellam.

The Trust has grown in complexity, and its abilities to fund community developments and activities at an extremely rapid rate over recent years, and the need for expert and professional management and guidance, to ensure good governance and statutory compliance has similarly increased. This gentleman (and I use that word very deliberately) has devoted hours and hours of his time and expertise, for no reward, for almost twelve years. Firstly, as Treasurer and more recently as Finance Director, he has ensured we have never had any issues with our financial responsibilities, have never been questioned – and in fact have been complimented on our Governance procedures. Now Frank has decided it's time to hang up his abacus, fold shut his ledger, and close down his Excel spreadsheet. As soon we can find someone to take on the role of Finance Director, Frank will finally hand over the reins.

There are many responsibilities over and above statutory accounts and "balancing the books" that come with the role of FD, and Frank has tirelessly worked at every aspect of the role. I am sure none of my fellow Directors would dispute the fact that when he goes, we shall all miss Frank hugely. He has been an absolute rock, keeping us on the straight and narrow, offering sage advice, and guiding us through the incredibly complex world of Community finance. But just as importantly, he did all of this whilst still being what I described earlier – he became a close friend, and a tremendous mentor for new Directors as they came on to the Board. He is never too busy to answer a question, no matter how trivial it may seem – and some of my questions have been pretty trivial!!



On a very personal note, let's be honest – he has his faults – for one he's a Spurs supporter! And don't get him on to the subject of 60's pop music – or old black and white movies – you'll never escape! On the other hand, he has put up with me for years and is generous to a fault – most importantly with his advice, time and friendship (although it is probably all documented on a spreadsheet!). He is the only accountant that has ever explained the black arts of Audited Accounts and Balance Sheets to me that has made any sense whatsoever!

Well, all that is soon to come to an end as Frank has decided it's time to let someone else "count the beans". We have tried everything to persuade him to stay and he has agreed to allow us time to find a replacement – but what a task that is! One thing is for sure – he has put in a phenomenal shift, and we respect his right to ride off into the sunset. His contribution has been huge and what's more, he has left a real legacy! When the wind farm and hydro schemes are no longer providing Community Benefit – we need have no worries – Frank has set up a Legacy Fund that will make all our projects and activities sustainable and well financed for years to come! So, he'll still be supporting this Community for decades into the future.

All I can say to our great friend is – "Frank Ellam – thank you so much!"

And to you Frank, as a man once almost said – "We'll always have Stratherrick and Foyers....."

Peter Faye

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

LEGACY FOR A LIFETIME

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust is putting a portion of the funds it receives from wind farms and hydro schemes aside for the future. This investment fund, which at the time of writing was valued at £698,360, will be used to sustain facilities in the Strath when the renewable schemes reach the end of their life.

The performance of the fund is formally reviewed annually. Here is a summary of the report provided by Sir Frederick Hervey-Bathurst (pictured above with his pet dog Greta) and Robert Butcher of Clarendon Financial Planning, the advisers on the Trust's investments. In their report they described the devastating impact the pandemic has had on the global economy. The excellent news is that the Trust's investment portfolio has performed well. Sir Frederick reported:

'This year has been a strenuous test for the portfolio with at one point almost a 40% decline in the UK's FTSE All Share Index. The Trust's investment assets however have delivered a positive investment return, substantially ahead of the market despite the impact of COVID-19 on share prices.

This has been achieved in line with the Trust's Statement of Investment Principles through a combination of:

1. Careful portfolio construction to control risk.
2. On-going reviews conducted by Clarendon and S&FCT directors.
3. Adherence to proper investment principles in fund selection.

The portfolio has achieved a return of 4.59% comparative to the FTSE 100 Index of minus 11.2% in the year to 12th October. The unique challenges of 2020 require ongoing vigilance with modest changes to the portfolio to ensure an appropriate balance is maintained between risk and return whilst recognising we are investing for the longer term.

The fund will be adding some new holdings in ESG funds (environmental, social and governance). The new



generation of ESG funds aim to drive positive change rather than traditional ethical funds which tend to rule out opportunities in recognition that politicians, companies and individuals see climate change and pollution both as a threat but also as an investment opportunity.

Clarendon and the directors are mindful that between Brexit, US elections and the impact of COVID-19 through the winter there is scope for another market decline in the short term. Steps are being taken to increase the defensive holdings in the portfolio.

SSE Renewables

HOW SSE PLAYED ITS PART IN FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SSE Renewables is one of the largest contributors of funds to the Stratherrick and Foyers area. In this article Marianne Townsley, the Great Glen Community Fund Manager for SSE, describes how the organisation responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The past few months have been a challenge for us all, but communities have been at the forefront of the emergency response to the coronavirus pandemic. As a funder we've been very busy trying to make sure that our funds are put to best use, helping the most vulnerable people. At SSE Renewables we administer around £10 million of funding across the UK and Ireland annually. Before the country went into lockdown we knew that our funding was going to play an important role in supporting local communities. Working with community councils and

local community trusts, we made sure that money was available up front. Common themes quickly emerged across most of the communities where our funds operate. Money was needed to run delivery services to the vulnerable; to pay for personal protective equipment for volunteers; to fund befriending programmes ensuring that everyone remained connected; and the delivery of 'virtual' services for all age groups. We've helped fund some really innovative projects, from funding materials to make PPE using a 3D printer, to working with a local gin distillery to manufacture hand sanitiser. The ways in which communities have pulled together is really impressive and very humbling.

Although I am working from home now, in some respects I think recent circumstances have meant that I am more connected to your Trust as we have set up monthly Zoom meetings to keep in contact. For some time we have been keen to see the Trust deliver a widespread community consultation to produce a community action plan, as well as recruit an experienced Trust Manager. We are delighted to see these are now in place.

Whilst the majority of our funding in the Stratherrick and Foyers area is



administered through your Trust, it is worth noting that we do have other funds available through the Stronelairg Wind Farm Fund and our Highland-wide Sustainable Development Fund. So if you are looking for funding for a project, please get in touch with me to discuss your ideas. I may not be able to meet you face-to-face right now, but my 'virtual' door is open and I'm happy to help. I can be reached at Marianne.townsley@sse.com or on 01463 728069.

Marianne Townsley
Community Fund Manager, SSE
Renewables

EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE WIND FARMS ON THE HILLS SURROUNDING STRATHERRICK

In this article the Trust's Community Liaison Officer, Steven Watson, provides a quick reminder of the current wind farms and summarises the planning applications that have been submitted. The big three wind farms are as follows:

DUNMAGLASS WIND FARM

The wind farm at Dunmaglass was the first of the big three to be consented and comprises 33 turbines. It is a high wind farm, on the former Clan MacGillivray homeland and is accessed by a long track that has public access.

The wind farm developers funded a range of improvements to the public roads and amended their plans for overhead wires to be replaced with a two kilometre section of buried cable.

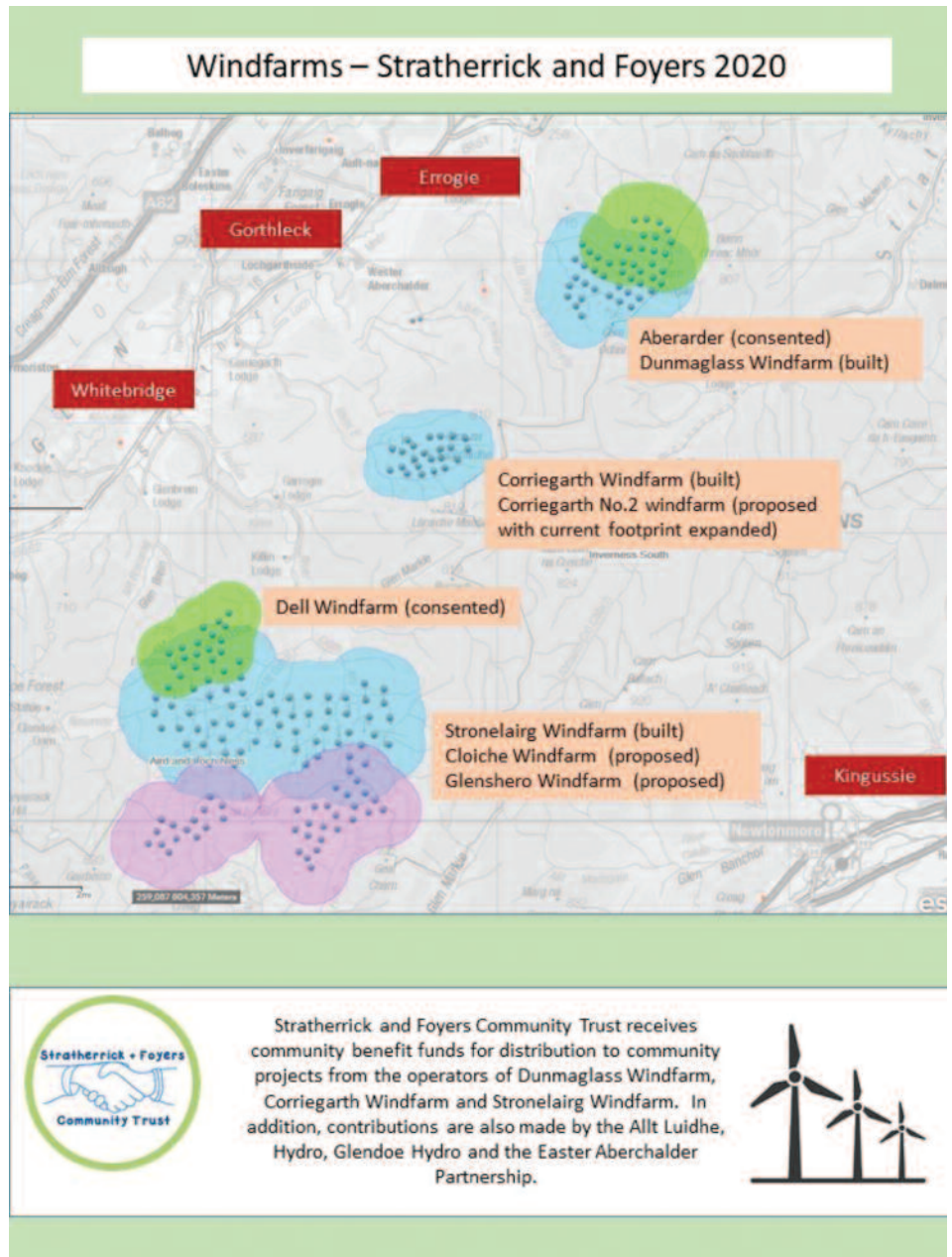
CORRIEGARTH WIND FARM

The Corriegarth Windfarm has 23 Enercon wind turbines, each rated at 3 Megawatts. The initial developer was Invenergy of Chicago, USA. Their local contractors were very active in the pre-development phase to ensure habitat and species protection. Work included the use of remote cameras, peatland bog restoration meanwhile and the impact on eagles is on-going.

STRONELAIRG WIND FARM

SSE's proposals for Stronelairg were originally submitted in 2012. 83 wind turbines were initially proposed and 66 were built. The wind turbines are high on the hill, over 600metres above sea level. Stronelairg wind farm uses the access road created for the Glendoe Hydro scheme which saved on infrastructure costs and reduced the need for additional mountain tracks.

There are a number of current proposals for the next stage of windfarm development in the hills above Stratherrick. Energy Consents from the Scottish Government have a dedicated website which provides access to the individual responses by consultees for each development.



<http://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00001852>

DELL WINDFARM (DELL WIND FARM LTD, MAIDENHEAD)

There has been a windfarm proposal for the Dell Estate land above Whitebridge for some years. The 2014 application for 14 turbines with an installed capacity of 42 Megawatts. Highland Council formally refused consent in 2017, however Dell Wind Farm Ltd went to appeal and the Scottish Government Reporter, Claire Milne, allowed the appeal in August 2019. Her full determination is available on line and includes 29 detailed conditions.

CLOICHE WIND FARM PROPOSAL (SSE, PERTH)

The Cloiche Wind Farm site is located adjoining the Stronelairg wind farm. A scoping opinion was issued by Scottish Government in December 2018 in response to a request by SSE for up to

40 wind turbines. Concern was raised that these turbines could be very large indeed. Scoping opinions are available to read at this weblink.

https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/files/4018A8176B5AFA317130DFDC9A8AAF61/pdf/18_04606_SCOP-Scottish_Ministers_e_mail-1688582.pdf

CORRIEGARTH NO2. WINDFARM LTD. (LONDON)

In February 2020 a comprehensive Scoping Report was submitted by Arcus Energy for this proposal. The idea is for 18 turbines, up to 149.9 metres in height. A scoping opinion was issued by Scottish Government in April 2020 and can be read along with many other interesting documents at this weblink. <http://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00002025> The additional turbines would form a ring around the existing 23 smaller turbines at Corriegarth and will have an installed capacity of 101 Megawatts.

ABERARDER WIND FARM (RES)

A 12 turbine proposal was made to Highland Council back in 2015 for a wind farm to the east of now operational Dunmaglass Wind Farm and accessed off the Dunmaglass estate road. Highland Council refused permission in 2016. The developer appealed and the Scottish Government Reporter, Richard Hickman, overturned the local authority decision and allowed the appeal in April 2017. There are 26 conditions and four notes applying to the consent and turbines at Aberarder are expected to be just ten metres taller than those at Dunmaglass. 3MW turbines are proposed, giving an installed capacity of 36MW. The developers, RES, have their own webpage about the development at this weblink. <http://www.aberarder-windfarm.co.uk/>

The ground on which the Aberarder wind farm is proposed lies within Strathnairn.

There are a number of operational hydro schemes and planned schemes which are either in Stratherrick or close by. The Glendoe Hydro scheme is the largest currently, whilst other smaller generating stations exist on the Fechlin and at Knockie.

SSE continues to operate Loch Farraline / Loch Garth / Loch Mhor as a pump-storage hydro scheme with the large generating/pumping station on Loch Ness side. The infrastructure at the southern end of Loch Mhor at Glebe is due to be improved soon.

The old British Aluminium scheme at the former factory at Foyers also feeds the grid with power from water in the Foyers river /Fechlin River E system.

The Glensherro Windfarm proposal is for 39 turbines and is to the south of the Stronelaig windfarm site. Glensherro is on the Laggan side of the hill and drains to the River Spey. Power generated by this development is earmarked for the aluminium smelter in Fort William. <http://www.glensherro-windfarm.co.uk/>

The current pump storage hydro proposal for a subterranean generating station above Dores is called 'Red John' and whilst it is not in the Stratherrick area some of the impact may be felt during construction. Abersky, Torness and the Calanour are shown within the 5km 'Site Buffer'. Red John is an ambitious proposal by the ILLI Group. Their website is at this weblink. <https://www.redjohnpsh.co.uk/>

Steven Watson
Community Liaison Officer. S&FCT

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Some significant planning applications have been submitted for consideration by Highland Council for different sites around the area. Like all planning applications, full details are available at the Highland Council's website. <https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/>

The application for the micro-distillery and associated house is very similar to a previous application which was covered in the NEWS. The site is on the loch side of the road between the Aberchalder Road end and the Lynne of Gorthleck. This application has attracted over 20 comments from members of the public. Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council has also added its response. The documents include very interesting information on the distilling process and a forestry plan.

Here is the reference. 20/02318/FUL | Erection of house and micro distillery with storage shed | Land 330M NE of Purple Lodge Gorthleck.

Another separate application before Highland Council refers to plans by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to develop their greenfield site at Inverfarigaig. The site has lain undeveloped for many years and is situated between the Hillhead Houses and the Druim an Allt road. This plan has been redrawn recently and is now separate applications for five affordable houses and three plots for development. Many letters of objection have been submitted by local residents.

The two references are 19/05090/FUL | Construction of 5 affordable houses. Formation of access to public road | Land 140M NW of 1 Hillhead Inverfarigaig and 19/05105/PIP | Provision of three house plots | Land 140M NW Of 1 Hillhead Inverfarigaig

Even more documents and plans are available to read about the development of Boleskine House and holiday units. Proposals include innovative self-catering accommodation for up to 20 people, set into the hillside and a separate private sewerage system.

Here is the reference 20/02471/FUL | Reinstatement and alterations to fire damaged

house; siting of 10No holiday twin-units, reception, store, car parking; installation of sewage treatment plant | Baile Os-Ceann Foyers Inverness IV2 6XT

Those interested in the proposed new additional spillway at Glebe for SSE's Loch Mhor dam or the history of the infrastructure there should not miss the opportunity to read the Heritage statement. Historical maps are also included by the architect and other charts show SSE's and ownership and servitude rights around the loch.

Here is the planning reference 20/03560/LBC | Loch Mohr Dam: Formation of spill-weir | Land 125M SE of Craigview Gorthleck

Readers may also be interested in the 450MW Red John Hydro Scheme plans to use Loch Duntelchaig. If this project proceeds there will be a three-to-five-year construction phase. <https://www.redjohnpsh.co.uk/> A public local enquiry is to follow the refusal of planning consent by Highland Council in January 2020. <https://www.ili-energy.com/>



Along the B862 near Lyne of Gorthleck



Inverfarigaig at the bottom of the corkscrew road



Dam, looking up to the Glebe about 2010 photo thanks to Mr David Johnson

THE CAMERONS TEA ROOMS

Thanks to the local community for the support we have received during the last few months, it has been greatly appreciated. Do come and cosy up with us this winter - we serve freshly prepared scones and home baking all day, a locally sourced quality breakfast from 10-12 and a lovely light lunch from 12-3.

You are best to book if you have a favourite table, and we have all the up to date Covid precautions in place to make your visit as safe as possible.

We are still offering Williamsons food service deliveries and collections of food on a Thursday throughout the winter.

This winter, for the first time since opening the Tearoom more than six years ago, we have

decided to stay closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

We are open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 3pm. We are sorry if this is inconvenient for any of our customers

Stay Safe!
Morag xx



WATERFALL CAFE. FOYERS

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus restrictions The Waterfall Cafe will close from the 28th November until further notice.

Thank you all for your support during this difficult time and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Vanessa Royle

FOYERS STORES AND POST OFFICE

Foyers Stores has added a few extra special lines to their range recently which are attracting more than a little interest from some whisky collectors.

Jan Hargreaves inherited a selection of rare and commemorative whisky decanters from her mother and father. Jan's father was a 'Stornoway Macleod' and ran licenced premises in Poole, Dorset for many years with his wife, Jan's mum, from Bilston near Edinburgh.

Jan's father was a great supporter of the Licenced Victuallers National Homes, the charity which formerly assisted with the education, support and housing for those in the trade who had hit hard times. As part of this, Mr Macleod amassed a collection of commemorative decanters, some sealed and full – and some not so full anymore!

Jan told the NEWS... 'When my mother passed away I brought some bottles north to Foyers and put them on the shelf. We have some Bell's decanters of famous Scottish Inventors including James Watt and Alexander Fleming. Another bottle commemorates the Queen's 50th jubilee. We even have a Dimple bottle



complete with the golden netting – do you remember them? '

One of Jan's favourite decanters is in the shape of an owl. It was produced by Jim Beam and has a blue turban and a laurel wreath – quite a bird to look at, especially after a few drams!

Jan and Simon are very grateful for the support they have received from regular customers during the pandemic. Jan asked the News to publish this thank you.

'It is great to be appreciated, and in this COVID time we have had the kindest of comments about what we do – and how we do it. Some of our older regular customers of the post office and shop have been really touching in their remarks about what we have done here to make the shop and post office a safe place to visit.

We have free masks at the front door and make sure that only two people are in the shop at any one time. We have adapted our ice cream freezers

to good effect – filling them with essentials including frozen meals and oven chips instead. To stop customers from hanging around inside browsing our souvenirs, we have put the tourist stocks outside in the ice cream shed.

Our big screen inside helps both staff and customers feel much safer too. All these measures have added to the strain of running the business, but we have done what we perceived to be best for protecting our locals.'

With my thanks to you all, Jan.

Trading Hours are:-

Shop: 9am - 5.30pm,
Monday to Saturday.
10am - 2pm, Sunday.
Post Office: 9am - 4.30pm,
Monday to Saturday.

Telephone: 01456 486233



South Loch Ness Tourist Group

TOUGH TIMES BRING OUT THE FIGHTING SPIRIT

The hospitality and retail sectors have been two of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The News asked members of the South Loch Ness Tourist Group to provide an insight into how they have coped with some of the toughest trading conditions ever experienced.



FOYERS BAY COUNTRY HOUSE

It has been an interesting year for us when you consider that we gave up our regular jobs, moved to Loch Ness from the South East of England and took over an existing hospitality business in the middle of a countrywide lockdown and global pandemic, but we've never been ones to shy away from a challenge. From the complexities of VAT, to gaining a liquor licence, and dealing with the horrifying amount of washing generated on a daily basis we've kept busy and loved every minute of our new lives here in the Highlands. The house has six rooms available to guests, and operates a pet-friendly policy which has been very popular. In addition to our regular house-trained visitors we have a variety of wildlife which frequents our grounds, ranging from red squirrels to deer and a highly inquisitive badger who makes regular visits to our front garden.

With the end of our first season approaching rapidly and the spectre of a second wave of COVID-19 approaching, it's hard to know what the coming months will bring. The hospitality sector hasn't fared well due to the lockdown restrictions

enforced to date but we're hoping to stay open throughout the remainder of 2020 and into the New Year. It's a little early to make concrete long term plans but we're already planning new directions and options for the business, and we'll take what comes head on with a smile - after all, when you live somewhere as beautiful as this even in the harshest of times it's difficult to be unhappy!

Elly and Chris Russell



LIBRA HOLISTICS

At the beginning of April I celebrated 5 years since I opened Libra Holistics. I had originally planned to celebrate by having an open day with drinks, cake and taster therapies available, but unfortunately due to lockdown I had to celebrate this milestone online. I ran a giveaway online of prizes including treatments, money off courses and discounts in my online shop. As the majority of my business had previously been done face to face, such as my holistic therapies and running courses, I was unable to carry on with this during lockdown. However it had given me the chance to launch my courses online, which is always something I had hoped to do, but just never had the time. I now have four of my courses online and have been teaching them to students as far as Canada and the USA via Zoom.

On the 22nd of August I reopened for face to face appointments. It has been great seeing so many of my lovely local clients again and being able to do Massage, Reflexology and Reiki. I have really missed the personal contact and easing away peoples aches and pains and helping to de-stress them. Although there are stricter measures in place it's been so good getting back to what I love doing the most. I am currently only

working from my premises at Riverside in Lower Foyers as I am not allowed to do home visits at the moment.

Lindsey Mcnaughton



NESS GIFTS

Ness Gifts is a brand new gift shop in Dores, specialising in high quality gifts, crafts and homewares made locally and throughout Scotland. You will find Jewellery, Knitwear, Blankets, Cushions, Soaps, Candles, Wax Melts, Art, Glasswear, Toys, Dog Accessories, Books and much, much more. From well known brands such as ANTA, to local crafts and honey, I try to have something for everyone across a range of prices.

Given that I opened in the middle of a pandemic, I started out with social distancing and sanitising as standard so it's all I've ever known. People are very understanding and respectful of others. I don't have much to compare with, but I'm happy with how busy we are at this very strange time. As word has spread, more people from Inverness and the local area are visiting the shop to buy gifts, and they seem to like what they find. Many seem happy to be able to shop without having to go into busy shopping areas. In the run up to Christmas, we will close Mondays/Tuesdays, have late opening on Wednesdays for those passing through Dores after work, and be fully open Thursday - Sunday.

Fiona Cairns

Boleskine Camanachd Club

SHINTY NEWS – OR MAYBE NOT!

Boleskine Camanachd Club was looking forward to the 2020 season with some new signings bolstering the squad from 2019. We did manage one league game against Lewis on Saturday 7th March before Boleskine Cammanache Club put paid to the rest of the season.

It was a hard-fought encounter with Lewis but Boleskine came out winners 4-2. A brace from Rory Campbell (2,17) and one each from Stuart MacRae (10)

and James Anderson (40) gave Boleskine a comfortable 4 goal advantage at half time. However, Lewis came out fighting in the second half with two late goals - one from Donald Lamont (73) and a penalty converted by Scott MacLeod (83).

And sadly, so the season ended with all matches suspended from 23rd March.

With strict rules in place, Boleskine has not returned to training as we are unable to meet all the demands of the "Return to Sport" document sent by the Scottish Government. We have to comply with the same conditions as a Premiership football club!! Sadly this is just not possible for a small club like ours.

As a result of the pandemic there will be no Shinty Sale this year – the first time it has ever had to be cancelled. Sorry there will be no meat bargains or a bottle stall for the community to enjoy and spend their money freely. However, we have had no expenses to meet this year so the club finances are stable.

We hope that 2021 will allow Shinty to get up and running again at Smith Park and, as always, hope to see you all there. We also hope to launch a new sponsorship scheme for local businesses to get involved with – more detail to follow.

Catriona Fraser

The Knockie Trust Fund

VOUCHERS FOR THE OVER 65S TO BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Margaret Fraser of Knockarroch for her dedicated and thoughtful contributions as a trustee of The Knockie Trust Fund. Margaret has

decided to step aside from the Trust after almost ten years of loyal service - her wisdom and experience will be sorely missed.

As many of you know, the main aim of the Knockie Trust is to assist residents of the Stratherrick & Foyers Community with hardship grants in times of difficulty. In addition to this, the Knockie Trust also offers annual winter comfort in the form of Christmas vouchers. This year we will be using Morrison's supermarket in recognition of their support for local farmers and local charities. The Christmas Vouchers are

available to anyone aged 65 years or over who has been a resident within the Stratherrick & Foyers area for 4 years or more (one voucher per household). For further information on either hardship grants or Christmas vouchers, please contact the Knockie Trust on either of the numbers below – we would love to hear from you.

Alistair Colquhoun (Chairman)
01456 486369

Fiona Bateman (Secretary)
01456 486646

St Paul's Church, Croachy

WEATHERING THE STORM

We have had to make some difficult decisions about important events, which will be a great disappointment for many people. These decisions were taken based on the Scottish Government and our own Scottish Episcopal Church Covid guidelines in September. While the situation may have changed since this date we felt it was best to make clear decisions as early as possible since any substantial lifting of restrictions in the coming months does not seem likely.

- The Community Christmas Fair on the 21 November, at Farr Community Hall will not take place.
- The Christmas Eve Carol Service on 24 December at St Paul's, Croachy will not take place.

We recognise the significance of these events for many folk across the community but it is simply not possible to hold them in a Covid safe way. Although unable to meet physically will provide a Christmas podcast. The St Paul's, Strathnairn podcast is available weekly on Anchorfm, Spotify, iTunes and other podcast hosts. The links are

available on the Community Facebook Pages and Church website.

The loss of sharing significant events together as families and as a community is a source of sadness for all of us - as a Church family we miss welcoming all of you to join with us at Croachy. St Paul's has weathered many storms, including significant periods of closure, in its 150 year history so we are confident that we will survive this pandemic as well, to welcome all of you back in the future.

Each Sunday we continue to hold our socially distanced service, with no singing, wearing face masks and taking our own cushions and bread and wine. Please join us if you can, but as numbers are limited please email stpaulschurch.strathnairn@gmail.com by Friday evening to check if a space is available.

Food Bank Harvest Collection - no collection will be made in church, but donations of items can be made direct to the Foodbank on Glebe Street, while monetary donations can be made online via <https://blythswood.org/donate/> Shoe Boxes - Blythswood are going ahead with their shoebox appeal but St Paul's will not be a collection point this year. Please check on Blythswood's website for information about where to take shoe boxes.

Revd Canon Kathy Collins
Priest in Charge

CHURCH SERVICES



BOLESKINE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Although the church building is still closed for worship, we are very much active. On the Inverness St Columba YouTube channel, you can catch up with online services until the building reopens, from 10:45am on a Sunday. We have started doing a Zoom service on a Sunday at 10:30 as well, and those without the internet can use their phone to join in these services.

Contact Rev Scott McRoberts for updates of the opening of the Boleskine building on:

scottmroberts@stcolumbainverness.org or 01463 832601.

I am Fiona Morrison, a part time minister, and I am going to be working with Dores and Boleskine for the next year. I am new to the area, so keen to learn more about your community. These are difficult times for a lot of people and if you fancy a chat, please let me know; I am here for everyone, those with faith or no faith. If you are happy to educate me on your

beautiful area, that would be great too. My number is 07710331746 and e-mail is: FMorrison@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Fiona Morrison

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STRATHERRICK
There are currently no services taking place in the Stratherrick area for the time being.



GREYFRIARS STRATHERRICK FREE CHURCH

The morning service is at 11am and the evening service is at 6pm but attendance at each service is limited to fifty people. The Greyfriars congregation meets in Inverness. Both services are live streamed on YouTube and can be accessed from the Live Streaming page.

<http://greyfriarsfreechurch.com/live-streaming/>

STRATHERRICK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass every Saturday at 5pm

Any enquiries please contact Father James Bell at St Mary's, Inverness - 01463 233519

<https://www.stmarysinverness.co.uk/>

The Highland Council

HEARTFELT THANKS FROM COUNCIL LEADER

Dear all Stratherrick and Foyers Residents.

Well, when I stood for election for the Council, little did I know I would be working through a pandemic with such far reaching impacts on you all. And I wish to acknowledge now the extraordinary efforts made in the community by the Boleskine Brolly Group and all the organisations that contribute so much to your daily lives. I also want to thank each and every one of you for the way you have cooperated with the restrictions imposed on your lives, which for many of you has also meant a severe loss of income.

Highland Council's initial response to COVID-19 was to make changes in the ways it worked, to continue to deliver the essential services we all need and to provide flexible emergency assistance through our welfare hubs and the helpline. The Council still must cope with COVID-19, and also has a new role. I am determined that Highland Council acts boldly to ensure we all recover, socially and economically, as soon as we can do so. With over 40% of Highland residents on a reduced income and with drastic impacts on our future tourism revenue, especially from overseas visitors, the Council needs to make every effort to help businesses, community groups and individuals change the way we work.

Loch Ness has a crucial role to play in our future prosperity. Unlike many other places around the globe we have a unique brand, known world-wide. Our food and drink products are renowned for quality, and the space we have to live and breathe sets us apart from everywhere else in the country.

I suppose my message to you all is to look afresh at how we can all cooperate, work together and look out for one another. There is so much



Margaret Davidson Leader of The Highland Council and councillor for ward 12 Aird and Loch Ness

more to be gained by local co-operation - it gives us resilience and a stronger community in which to live.

I must also pay tribute to Council staff. Whether it is teachers or roadmen, planners or telephonists, Council staff have really risen to the challenge of COVID. I know the Council can be the butt of many remarks, but the dedication and tenacity of Council staff which I have witnessed over these last months has been truly heartening. Did you know that the bins have always been emptied! That preparations for winter on the roads are well advanced? That Councillors have all learned how to work Zoom for meetings! Amazing! And we all need to be proud of the care in the community that continued throughout lock down and continues today. Well done Boleskine Carers... and so many others, the delivery men and women from online companies and the supermarkets, the volunteers that ensured prescriptions were delivered.

Finally, I have a wee tribute for Aird and Loch Ness Councillor George Cruickshank who passed away earlier this year. George was a great supporter of local business and a champion for Loch Ness and

Drumnadrochit. Let us all look forward to a new councillor with the same inclusive attitude to all in our community that George displayed. We have had to postpone the election of his successor to next Spring, but I do hope that we will have a contest with good local candidates who know the strengths and needs of our community around the Loch.

We are all facing a tough winter. Future restrictions may be necessary as the virus increases a second time. I worry for you all, I worry that you will struggle to pay bills, keep warm or are just yearning to see friends and family. My job is to do all I can to help you through this and to plan for the future. Stay strong, let us all count our blessings and get through this together.

Best wishes
Margaret Davidson

Independent Councillor for Aird and Loch Ness.

margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk
07818015689

Stratherrick & Foyers
Community Council

COMMUNITY SPIRIT REMAINS A CONSTANT

Paula Page was elected as the new Chair of the Community Council last October. Little did she realise that a job that is tough at the best of times would be made doubly difficult by a global pandemic. Here she reflects on how the community has responded to the challenge.

During Lockdown and following guidance from Highland Council, we continued to hold regular meetings to discuss issues affecting our area. Like so many organisations the move to 'virtual' meetings was a rapid learning curve and at times quite a technical challenge! Last month we decided to make the move to an open invite to all residents in our community to attend our 'Zoom' meetings if they wished to. We have a 'virtual protocol' for all to follow because, whilst members of the public are encouraged to attend their local meetings and give input at the end of the meeting, there is a subtle nuance - unless the member of public has already been invited to talk, the opportunity to contribute arrives at the end of the session because the meetings are not public meetings but meetings held in public.

Over the last few months, we have all been faced with unprecedented times on many levels, affecting us personally, with family and friends, education, health, employment etc. One thing however has remained a constant throughout this pandemic - our community spirit, and this shone through with the many, many volunteers who helped on so many levels and went above and beyond to keep us all safe.

As a Community Council we have been proud to be part of the Boleskine Brolly Group working collaboratively with the SFCT, Knockie Trust and BCC to help deliver care, financial help and practical help to those that have

needed it. There have also been countless examples of neighbours looking out for one another, getting in shopping, prescriptions, befriending etc. The local businesses have also stepped up, supporting residents throughout lockdown when they themselves were unable to operate. It's heart-warming to witness the many examples of community spirit during these difficult and challenging times and we thank you all.

Micro Grants - The Community Council has a fund from the SSE Stronelairg wind farm. This enables the Community Council to award small grants of up to £500 for Community use. Recently, the following grants have been awarded:

Cameron Simpson £200 - to buy fuel and equipment for a chainsaw to help provide residents of Glenlia with firewood during the early part of lockdown

Brolly Group £500 - towards Community Food Box delivery project

FIRA £500 - to purchase Amazon Vouchers to acknowledge how well all the High School aged... - children in our community did with home schooling and to purchase materials to help with this.

Karla Stewart £479.90 - for the purchase of a Mud & Bloom box for all Nursery and Primary school aged children in our Community.

BCC £500 - to help create outdoor safe spaces as and when restrictions permit and to purchase a large Gazebo

Community Council £500 - to purchase a laptop for admin use and store all of the CC's documents

If anybody has an idea that would benefit the Community and/or your group and you would like to apply for a micro grant, please get in touch by emailing our admin at - email.sfcc@aol.com

At the last Community Council meeting, we accepted Abi Kirkland's resignation from her role as a Community Councillor - Abi has now moved to Hamilton to study at

university and we would like to wish her all the best in her course.

If you want to attend Community Council meetings on Zoom, please contact Admin on email.sfcc@aol.com for a Zoom invite and Agenda. Minutes of previous meetings can be found on the Stratherrick.net website and on our Facebook Page. We have also now taken the decision to post weekly new Community planning applications on our Facebook Page. If you would like anything raised at the next Community Council meeting or would like to speak with us on any matter please contact Sharon, our admin at email.sfcc@aol.com

Please remember you can refer to the Highland Council website to look for further information. You will find portals to report any problems with roads/potholes - https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems You can also personally comment on any planning application and look for further guidance on current COVID-19 restrictions.

Warmest regards,

Paula

Paula Page, Chair
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council

NEW BID TO REPLACE FOYERS TOILETS

For many years now previous Community Councils have worked tirelessly to upgrade and develop the toilet provision in our community at Foyers which is not a statutory obligation. The Community Council Office Bearers are the current owners of the condemned toilet block and we lease the land from Highland Council. The previous Community Council already had a design and achieved full planning permission but were sadly unsuccessful in their bid to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Funding Round 2.

However, we were delighted to hear the announcement of the RTIF Government funding was to open for 3rd round and we have been working collaboratively with members of SFCT in the form of a 'Toilet Sub Group' on an application to hopefully secure 70% of the funds needed to see this project to fruition.

A Community Consultation Survey and a Visitors Survey were recently conducted to demonstrate to the funding body that the local community supports the provision of new toilets. Our thanks to all who took the time to complete these. Of the 153 Locals who completed the survey, 92% either Strongly Agreed or Agreed with this project. The full survey results and responses will be published on our website and will be used in their entirety to support the RTIF application.



The application deadline will have passed by the time you read this and we hope to hear if we have been successful by December. We will keep you all updated.

Paula Page

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

Both Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council and Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust held their annual general meetings in November. The following senior officers were elected.

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council:

Patrick Haston was elected chair of SFCC. A man of many talents, he is currently building his house on a hill close to the edge of Errogie and travellers using the B862 will be familiar with the building (pictured right.) Patrick has a background in software development and works as a

project manager specialising in the implementation of IT systems. He has written books on software development, project management and personal development. He is passionate about encouraging young people to embrace careers in science, technology, engineering and maths. The role of vice-chair on SFCC is currently vacant.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust:

Kirsty Balfour (pictured left) was elected chair of S&FCT. Kirsty moved from Croachy to Whitebridge in 2016 together with her partner and three young children. Kirsty has been a director on the Trust for close to a year. When not involved in Trust activities she divides her time

between looking after a family of three with her partner Mike and teaching in Inverness. She is currently heavily involved in the Boleskine Brolly Group initiatives to ease the impact of COVID-19 on the Strath, the Riverside sports development, completing the refurbishment of Wildside and the Winter Woodland event.

Gareth Jones (centre picture) was elected vice-chair. Gareth followed his wife back to her hometown Inverness and has lived in Errogie for the last 12 years. A journalist, television editor and learning and development consultant, he now specialises in the use of online technologies and 'big data' in the delivery of training. He was co-opted on to the Trust in the Spring of this year.



THE ANNUAL MULE SALE

The Highland Mule is a prolific cross bred sheep with a hardy Blackface ewe as the mother and a Blue Faced Leicester tup as the father. They come into the world looking a little bit like big eared donkeys, but that's where the name association ends, it really just refers to the purposeful mix of traits from mother and father to make this sought after hybrid.

The Highland Mule is a valuable product for most of the sheep farms from Glendoe to Inverarnie. The ewe lambs and gimmers, which are a year older, are sold through a special sale at Dingwall mart on the first Monday in September every year. This attracts buyers from all over Scotland, as far north as Orkney and even some from the Western Isles. The Highland Mules are generally bought by farmers on more productive ground and are crossed to meatier tups. They are prolific mothers with lots of milk and produce good numbers of chunky lambs for market.

All these prospective breeding females are sold with HISHA (Highlands and Islands Sheep Health Scheme) accreditation, which means they are blood tested free of enzootic abortion, which can be a devastating disease if brought into a flock. The mule breeders also assure that all the animals sold have been dipped within two weeks of the sale so they won't have any skin troubles or itchy beasties hitching a ride; and have been vaccinated against Clostridial diseases and Pasteurella (all the things sheep like to die from at any given opportunity).

The Mule sale in September is usually a very social occasion, with buyers and sellers gathering for an annual catch up and the mart is buzzing with chatter. Sadly this year, with Covid19, it was a very different situation. Following all the regulations laid down by Highland Council, buyers had to pre-register to be allocated a seat, which were all numbered and spaced around the ring with at least two metres spacing. Sellers had to make sure their sheep were allocated to batches and marked with little paint dots before arriving so that they could be sorted by mart staff alone. When they went through the ring the sellers, masked up and temperature taken, could view from a high point above the ring, accessed from a different stairway. Alternatively, the sale could be viewed at home from an online livestream. Even the mart café, although open for take away, didn't have the same buzz of people catching up and getting the craic! The social normality of the mart is a big miss to farmers, often working in relative isolation for much of their working day, so fingers crossed we can be back to normal by next year.

Jenny McCallum



BRIGHT IDEAS TO SAVE A SQUIRREL

We are so very fortunate in our area to have such a high population of red squirrels. However it has been the comment of many, how sad it is to see so many killed on

our roads, in particular on the loch-side road from Foyers to Dores. Some ideas have been discussed as to what we may do to minimise this, and I would be very interested to hear from anyone who may have expertise in this area or have any bright ideas.

Please email me on lorraine-dir@sfctrust.org.uk

MYSTERY BOY IN THE RED BREEKS

It's great what you can see on your laptop at home these days. Few casual visitors realise the important role played by Foyers in the pioneering of aluminium smelting in Scotland.

In this film, made in 1962 (see link below), we can see the metal ore being mined in Ghana and shipped to the reduction plant in Burntisland, Fife.

There are some shots of the Foyers Factory and of Riverside and the Glenlia houses. Does anyone recognise these residents - nearly sixty years ago? Perhaps you were the wee boy in the red shorts at Upper Foyers?

Here is the link to view this free resource.

https://movingimage.nls.uk/film/2239?search_term=metal%20harmony



GET LOST IN THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

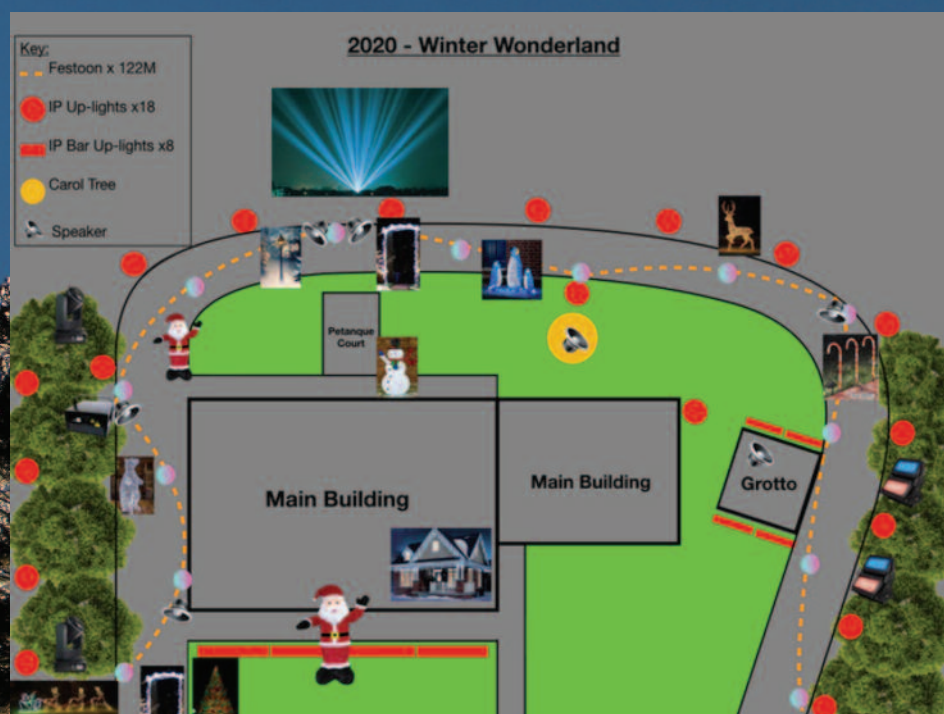
Covid-19 has brought most social events to a shuddering halt. However, a group of volunteers in Stratherrick and Foyers are working hard to ensure that at least Christmas won't be cancelled! On the

back page of the News you will find an invitation to a Christmas Wonderland. Of course we expect to see ALL the children of the Strath there, but the young at heart are also in for a treat. The centre piece is an outdoor walk along an enchanting path that will take you past polar bears and stags, penguins and reindeer; all beautiful lit up in the lowering gloom of a Scottish winters night.

The climax will be a visit to Santa's Grotto. He has reassured the organisers that he will not get caught in a regional lockdown. There the youngsters will receive a present tailor made for them. We really look forward to welcoming you to a safe outdoor event where you can enjoy being out and about as a family. But hurry, tickets are running out fast.

A big thank you goes to the joint efforts of the The Boleskine Brolly Group and the wider community for making the event happen. Without funding from Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust it would have remained just a dream and hopefully it will become a yearly tradition that just gets bigger and bigger!

Jillian
Director, Stratherrick and Foyers
Community Trust



WINTER WEATHER HOTLINE FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES

School closures can occur for many reasons such as bad weather, fires, faulty sprinklers and broken heating systems.

To obtain the latest information on your child's school please dial the telephone number 0800 564 2272, then enter the school's unique 6 figure PIN number listed below.

You will then hear the latest pre-recorded message from the head teacher of your child's school.

ALDOURIE PRIMARY	041350
BUN-SGOIL GHAIHLIG	043280
DRUMMOND SCHOOL	041910
FARR PRIMARY	042020
FOYERS PRIMARY	042070
INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY	041100
KILCHUIMEN ACADEMY	042310
STRATHERRICK PRIMARY	043060

Foyers Medical Practice

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

Everyone at Foyers Medical Practice would like to thank the community for their support over the last 9 months. It has been a very difficult time for all, and the community's co-operation and understanding has been very much appreciated.

FLU VACCINE REMINDER

If you are eligible for a flu vaccine, then please call the surgery on 01456 486224 to arrange an appointment. There is no 'pop in' day due to the pandemic so an appointment is essential.

PRESCRIPTIONS

With winter fast approaching, the community is advised to order their prescriptions in plenty of time. You can do this online at:
<https://www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/se-cure/prescriptionsl.aspx?p=h55747>

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday 9am-6pm
(Lunch 1300 - 1400)

PRACTICE CLOSURES

Friday 25th December 2020
Monday 28th December 2020
Friday 1st January 2021
Monday 4th January 2021

Apologies for any inconvenience

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

FOYERS MEDICAL CENTRE:
01456 486224

NHS 24:
PHONE 111

POLICE- NON-EMERGENCY OR
TO REPORT A CRIME:
PHONE 101

MEDICAL, POLICE, FIRE, LOCH
OR ANOTHER EMERGENCY:
PHONE 999

SSE POWER CUT HELPLINE:
PHONE 105

FOYERS FIRE STATION (NON-
EMERGENCY):
01463 240999

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

WEDNESDAYS (ROUTE 3):
ALDOURIE - TORNESS - ERROGIE -
FOYERS - INVERFARIGAIG - DORES

Dates: 22 Jan, 12 Feb, 04 Mar,
25 Mar, 15 Apr, 06 May, 27 May,
17 Jun, 17 Jul, 08 Aug, 29 Jul, 19 Aug,
09 Sep, 30 Sep, 21 Oct, 11 Nov,
02 Dec, 23 Dec 2020.

09.30 - 10.10 Aldourie Primary School
10.30 - 10.40 Torness, Artists Studio
11.00 - 11.15 Errogie Church
11.40 - 12.20 Lower Foyers Riverside
13.00 - 13:30 Lunch
13.35 - 13.55 Foyers, Glenlia Road
14.05 - 14.40 Foyers Primary School
14.50 - 15.05 Foyers Coach House
15.15 - 15.40 Inverfarigaig Forestry Houses
16.00 - 16.40 Hillhead Dores by Dores Inn

THURSDAYS (ROUTE 12): DAVIOT
PRIMARY SCHOOL - GORTHLECK -
STRATHERRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL
- WHITEBRIDGE - ERROGIE - FARR

Dates: 16 Jan, 06 Feb, 27 Feb,
19 Mar, 09 Apr, 30 April, 21 May,
11 Jun, 02 Jul, 23 Jul, 13 Aug,
03 Sep, 24 Sep, 15 Oct, 05 Nov,
26 Nov, 17 Dec 2020.

09.25 - 10.05 Daviot Primary School
10.35 - 11.25 Invernarnie, Farr Hall
12.00 - 12.15 Gorthleck Public Hall
13.15 - 13.30 Stratherrick Primary
School
14.00 - 14.25 Whitebridge Old Post
Office
15.00 - 15.35 Errogie Bridge before
"Ark"
15.00 - 15.30 Dunlichty
16.00 - 16.20 Farr Croft Croy
16.25 - 16.50 Farr Community Hall



The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge

..... **BOOK YOUR SLOT**

**18th-20th
December**

Additional night will be added if there is demand

This event is open to everyone of all ages that reside in the Stratherrick & Foyers Community



**WINTER
WONDERLAND**
Stratherrick & Foyers 2020

FEATURING

**SANTA'S GROTTO : WONDERLAND WALK : RAFFLE : PHOTOBOOTH :
HOT DRINKS : STRICT COVID PRECAUTIONS :
Donations for BCC & Foyers Community Fire Station**

TO BOOK YOUR SLOT EMAIL:

brollygoodchristmas@sfctrust.org.uk

PROVIDE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, CONTACT NUMBER AND PREFERRED DAY AND TIME.

**WE WILL SEND YOU CONFIRMATION OF YOUR SLOT AND THE DETAILS OF THE EVENT.
PLEASE LIMIT THE SIZE OF YOUR GROUP TO THE RULE OF 6 OR LESS.**

THE DAYS AVAILABLE ARE:

FRIDAY 18TH, SATURDAY 19TH & SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

TIME SLOTS YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM ARE:

17:00, 17:20, 17:40, 18:00, 18:20, 18:40, 19:00, 19:20, 19:40, 20:00, 20:20, 20:40

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!

THIS YEAR, DUE TO CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, WE CAN ONLY MAKE THIS EVENT AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY. HOPEFULLY NEXT YEAR WE CAN BRING IT TO YOU ALL!

The Brolly Group

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The publication of the Stratherrick & Foyers News and many of the activities we report on are made possible by the community funds we receive from the following organisations:

Scottish and Southern Energy



Greencoat Capital



Green Highland



Easter Aberchalder Partnership