

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

SFCT ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Nov 2023 Issue Number: 47

CHAIR REPORT

As we approach the Trust's AGM, the bulletin this month takes the form of an annual report detailing the activities of the 12 months from July 2022 to June 2023. It is important to note that what follows is not 'what the Trust has done' - but is what staff and volunteers have achieved with the support of community benefit funding.

The Trust's overall strategy has five phases: 1. Stabilize the Board and its governance; 2. Professionalise the service; 3 Put in place the infrastructure. These steps are now pretty well complete. We are now in the final two phases: Stimulate and support many small projects that will make a real difference to people's lives and achieve a high level of self-sufficiency by 2030. Below are some of the highlights of the last 12 months.

- The year began with a successful Highland Gathering with over 500 people attending the event at Corriegarth. On the back of the event a Highland Dancing Class for children began at the Wildside. We also supported the Fireworks and Winter Wonderland at which over 100 children were given presents from Santa. Winter Wonderland received a 9.1 out of 10 from those who attended.
- Thanks to Scottish Government and Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS) funding we recruited a Marketing and PR Officer (job share with Jillian Barclay and Calum Martin) and a Community Action Plan Officer (Robbie Burn). To improve our financial support we split the role of Bookkeeper (Susan Low) and Finance Officer (Fiona Mustarde). This will be Laura's final AGM after 7 years with us and she was replaced by Kirsteen Campbell.
- Matthew Rhodes joined us as our new Buildings and Facilities Officer and Peter Leyden as the Cleaner for Foyers Toilets.
- We completed a Housing Needs Analysis and are currently investigating the site at Inverfarigaig for affordable homes to rent. We also advised on funding available for self build homes.
- The Foyers toilets were built and are currently operational near Foyers Stores.
- We distributed £18500 of grants for food and fuel via the Knockie Trust, supported local business events and food for social interaction during the winter, distributed 80 tonnes of wood fuel, held regular Warm Wednesdays, larder, clothes swap, bring and buy and food sales at the Wildside. A support group was also started at the Wildside.
- We conducted and completed our Community Place Plan one year before the deadline to the local authority which will support funding applications and working with the local authority on the needs of our community. This was submitted by the Community Council. This was validated by the Local Authority and is the first Place Plan to be submitted (and second in Scotland).
- The Stratherrick Hall reopened after repairs to the roof. This is one of several groups who receive grants from the Trust alongside individuals for study and sport grants.

- The new Bowling Club started at the Wildside Centre and was so successful ended up moving into Stratherrick Hall too, as did Pilates.
- The Pulse Survey was conducted with a staggering 22% improvement in Communications from the Trust. This survey happens every year and will guide us where to put our resources to support you. We also improved our What's On calendar and share that weekly on social media.
- Thanks to external funding two polycrubs were installed at Wildside and Inverfarigaig for community growing programmes.
- We held our first Success Night at the Wildside where all groups could announce what they had achieved this year. Over 30 people attended the event which was very enjoyable and we learnt about what everyone was up to.
- There was a Falls of Foyers task day and a community clean up, both funded in part by the Trust.
- The Chairs of CC and SFCT have approached SSE for a discussion on wind farm investment and this is likely to happen before the end of 2023.
- Following the Community Action Plan and work by parents/carers and staff at SFCT CALA have indicated that they may provide after school care at Stratherrick and Foyers Primary School, with initial support from the Trust, to help support and encourage families to the area. A fully funded childminder role was also advertised in the local area thanks to the work of our staff members.
- New lighting has been installed at Wildside to benefit the groups there who requested it. We are starting to work with DTAS Facilities Management Service to ensure all our buildings meet standards and address any issues community members may have re energy, insurance, maintenance, fire safety, health and safety, licencing, capital projects, procurement, risk management and business continuity.
- The land at Wildside has been purchased for housing/ development if required. We have informed local residents we now own the land and hope to improve the environment there following an independent risk assessment.
- The Park at Wildside has been given planning permission and £20,000 has been raised towards its development. Building will start in March 2024.
- Errogie Phase 1 wind and watertight (and protection of bats) has been completed and our planning application for Phase 2 was approved at the end of October. We have a funded project with Accelerate to review the Business Plan for Phase 2 and a funding bid to strengthen that.
- The Slipway at Foyers was awarded planning, the QS has arranged the tenders and will work on a transport plan. The area was tidied up at the Loch to allow easier access at the moment.
- The land at Inverfarigaig was purchased for the local residents who will agree a lease from the Trust.
- We have started the process of a community asset transfer from Forestry for the Forest School at Inverfarigaig. This is going through consultation now.
- We were given Planning In Principle for the Riverside Field Project and set up the Community Liaison Group. The residents recently met twice to discuss and agree the landscaping as part of Phase 1 (to then be shared with the wider community) and we have initiated work to meet planning conditions.
- The Pathways Group conducted a scoping report to assess and establish the cost of what work needs to be done.

Gareth Jones
Chair, SFCT

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OUTCOMES



WILDSIDE (See below)

Matt and Robbie have made fantastic progress on the polycrub at the Wildside Centre over the last couple of weeks! We will share more information on this project in due course but if you are interested in becoming part of the community growing group please contact sarah@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.



RIVERSIDE

All Planning In Principle condition documents have been completed and the local residents will hopefully sign off their landscape design for consultation with the wider community before the end of the year.

PATHWAYS

Project activity to date has focussed on two sections of the South Loch Ness Trail. £20K of funding was awarded by Highland Council to the group and together with funding of £20K from the Trust, we have been working to finalise how exactly the funds will be spent. It has taken a number of twists and turns as all projects do, but as of September 2023, work is expected to commence soon on improvements between Whitebridge and Foyers while at the same time we are in talks with Forestry and Land Scotland to collaborate on improvements between Inverfarigaig and Foyers.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We are waiting for one further piece of information from the Highland Council for After School Care, and we were informed this week that we should receive this in November. We hope to have this in place for the next academic year.

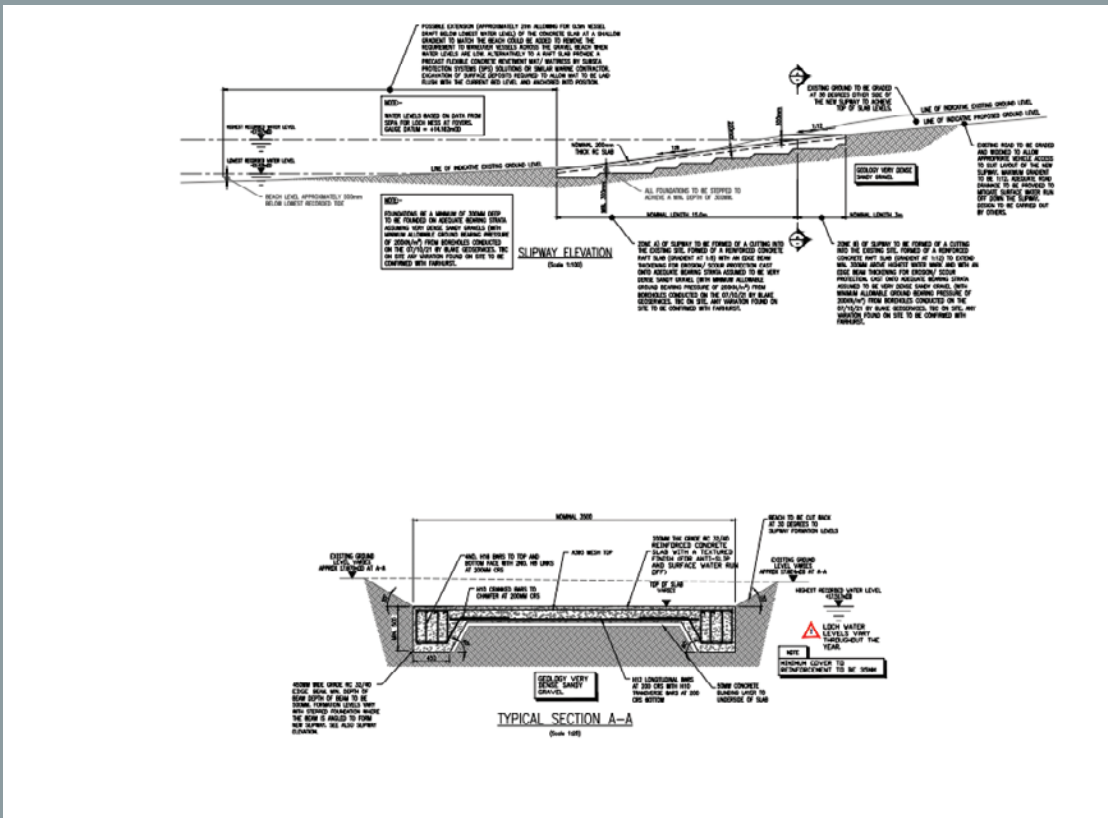
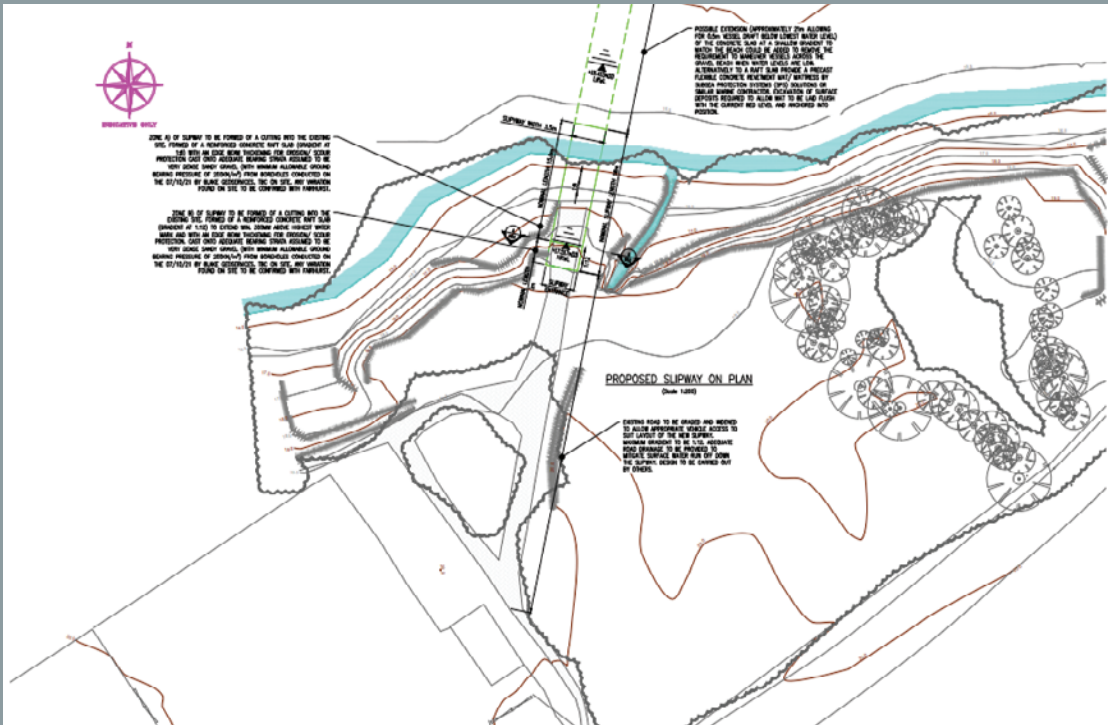
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Funding applications went in this week to assist with the provision of a community minibus and the purchase of e-bikes. We will update you on further progress on both of these in due course.

ERROGIE (See below)

This week we received the news that we have been granted planning permission for phase 2 at Errogie.





SLIPWAY (See above and right)
Malcolm, Caroline and Robbie met at the slipway and discussed options to tidy up the boat yard and make the whole area more user-friendly by the end of the year. Planning has been granted for the slipway, QS tenders are in and we hope to build it in May next year.



STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER
Feb 2023 Issue Number 41

ENJOYING SENSATIONS
WARM WINTERCLOTHING
INTRODUCING NEWBORN BEREAVEMENT

and... do you want to build a boatyard?

SFCT

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS
April 2023 Issue Number 42

FLASH WITH SUCCESS AFTER 12 YEAR WAIT
STRATHERRICK & FOYERS HAS SECURED ITS FUTURE
100 TONS OF RUBBER TIRE DERIVATIVE FREE

and... Food goodie to a legend

SFCT

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS SPECIAL
May 2023 Issue Number 43

SELF-SUFFICIENCY - THE COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS A BETTER LIFE
FROM THE COMMUNITY - THE COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS A BETTER LIFE
THE GREAT GREAT - THE COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS A BETTER LIFE

and... out of the 100 COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

SFCT

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER
July 2023 Issue Number 44

SHOWING OUR YOUNG ISLAND DANCERS
THE COMPASSION DOG SHOW
KEEP THIS COPY TO COLLECT YOURS FOR TOMORROW

and... get closer on the Local Plan Plan

SFCT

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER
September 2023 Issue Number 45

OUR COMMUNITY HELPS
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?
A WALK IN THE MOOD
and... use forward Line Delivery?

SFCT

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS
October 2023 Issue Number 46

SPONSORING STRATHERRICK & FOYERS FOR YOUR CARE
EXPLORE OUR WILDERNESS
WE HAVE THE BEST LEPUS IN THE UK AND I LOVE IT
and... food and fuel grants for boats

SFCT

COMMUNITY HOUSING

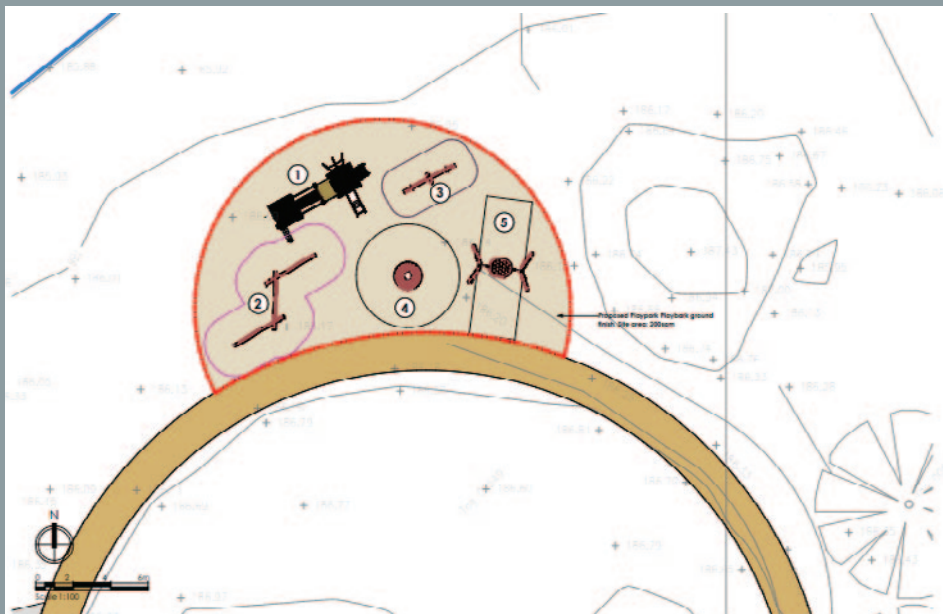
We are currently discussing with Community Housing Trust opportunities in the development at Inverfarigaig. We will keep you posted on that.

FOREST SCHOOL

An approach has been made for a Community Asset Transfer of the Forest School at Inverfarigaig. This and all our plans were recently covered in the Press and Journal.

PLAYPARKS (See right)

Following consultation on the Wildside Centre PlayPark design we have agreed the company to take it forward, with an expectation this will be built from March next year.



SFCT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The annual accounts for the year ended show an increase in profit from 2021/22 of 27% and a 16% increase in net assets on the balance sheet. Our staff enabled and supported the successful delivery of large-scale projects such as the Foyers Toilets and Errogie Church redevelopments, with the Trust receiving more than £240k in external project funding during the year. We strengthened our finance team as we move to funding larger projects and our fundraisers continue to help raise the additional funds required to meet the objectives set by the community in the Community Action Plan and Place Plan. We are now working on a £6million

campaign to ensure all current capital projects are complete by 2030.

To better understand the activity and achievements during the year, it is more helpful to consider this in the context of cash outflow and inflow. In cash terms, Foyers Toilets and Errogie Church combined accounted for 50% of cash outflow, grants and initiatives were 18%, staff costs accounted for 13%, investment into the legacy fund was 11% and the remainder was administration and overhead costs.

The legacy fund investment will provide an income to the Trust and the Community beyond the lifetime of the windfarms. The current value of this fund as of November 2023 is £1,090,340. Stock market investments can be volatile but these investments are designed for long term financial planning.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Turnover | - | - |
| Other income | 840,273 | 672,783 |
| Staff costs | (168,602) | (113,819) |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off assets | (25,057) | (23,781) |
| Other charges | (276,550) | (243,545) |
| Tax | (1,687) | (649) |
| Profit | <u>368,377</u> | <u>290,989</u> |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed assets | 1,769,534 | 1,325,168 |
| Current assets | 860,019 | 1,074,400 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 446,711 | 73,452 |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | (19,154) | (34,524) |
| Net current assets | <u>1,287,576</u> | <u>1,113,328</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 3,057,110 | 2,438,496 |
| Accruals and deferred income | (350,634) | (100,397) |
| Net assets | <u>2,706,476</u> | <u>2,338,099</u> |
| Capital and reserves | <u>2,706,476</u> | <u>2,338,099</u> |

TRUST MANAGER UPDATE

PLACE PLAN NEXT STEPS

This week we engaged with the local authority on next steps for the Community Action Plan and Place Plan and how they can help make things happen in the local area. This helps us pool our strengths and resources – what they can help with in their statutory work and budgets and what the Trust (Community Council and other groups) can bring to the table in terms of resources, community view, community volunteering, staff time and funding both internal and external. What does that mean in totality? It means we can work towards the outcomes we all want, doubling our resources by working proactively together.



WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

This week we went a step closer to community transport, affordable housing, after school care, pathways, land use, playparks and Winter Wonderland! Sometimes its two steps forward and one step back but we are working on many of the initiatives that you identified in the Community Action Plan and Place Plan. We have gone from not much is happening to everything seems to be happening at once! It doesn't and won't, of course, but we are aiming for a 2030 deadline for most projects.

THE PULSE SURVEY




You help guide us and community groups and where to direct our resources to make things happen. You help to do this via filling out the annual Pulse Survey from the 5th November for two weeks. This will be the third Pulse Survey. The results help advise the new Board after the AGM where to direct our resources and takes about five minutes to complete. Details here and the link will be live from Sunday <https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/5-nov-2023-pulse-survey-launch>

REMEMBER REMEMBER TO TAKE THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY

PULSE SURVEY 2023

FROM 5TH NOVEMBER UNTIL THE 21ST OF NOVEMBER WE ARE ASKING YOU TO TAKE THE ANNUAL PULSE SURVEY. THIS IS TO HELP ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY TRUST, VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER GROUPS AND WORK DONE BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY. THIS HELPS THE BOARD DIRECT OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE THE WORK WE ALL DO.

PLEASE TAKE THE PULSE SURVEY HERE AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE
[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.CO.UK/R/TTPULSE23](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TTPULSE23)



SFCT AGM

The AGM will be on 29th November. We intend to have tea, coffee and juice and a chance to see the exhibit which highlights what the Trust and other community groups have been up to over the last year and then after the AGM we intend to have a social for people to ask questions for the Board Members and general chat. Papers for the AGM are going out now and we do urge you to get a nomination form in if you wish to stand for the Board or ask any questions so we can prepare answers on the night. Here's a post from 2022 from a current Director about what its like <https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/1-nov-2022-maureens-take-on-becoming-a-director>



SFCT 
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST

AGM

7.30PM, WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE

Further details to follow –
keep an eye on the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust website and Facebook page

Tony Foster
SFCT Manager

NEW COMMUNITY VAN

Have you seen this mystery white van?

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust has taken delivery of our new community van. The plan is to use it around Stratherrick and Foyers to help the Trust, local community groups and residents alike.

Whether it's chairs, bouncy castles or even tea urns, moving our assets around is essential to get the best use from them.

Trust Director Gareth Jones said 'The Trust Board decided to trial a van because there is often a need to transport bulky objects around the district for events either at the Wildside Centre or the Hall. We also have the slipway site in development at Loch Ness and the conversion of the former Free Church building at Errogie.

The van is insured for two members of Trust staff to drive. No Trust directors are able to drive the van.

Tony Foster, CEO at the Trust added, 'The Trust will also be making the van available to help other community groups when they need it.

Once we are in the position to take bookings for the use of the van, we will issue some more info'.



'TAKE THE PULSE' SURVEY

From 5th November until the 21st of November we are taking the pulse of the community via our third 'Taking The Pulse' survey and will benchmark the results every year. This is to assess impact of the Community Trust and work done by the community for the community.

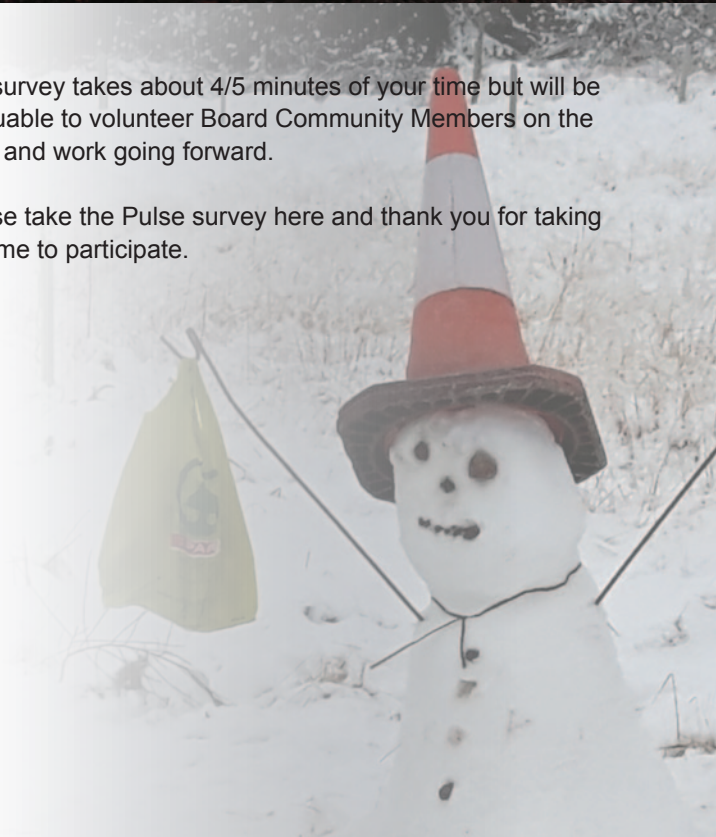
The Community Trust is a vehicle which can assess the need and direction of where funds coming into the community go. It maintains our sense of financial and legal obligations.

The work it does along with other volunteers and groups is a reflection of our own community.

From time to time it's good for us all to see where we can improve or, in some areas, keep doing what we are doing. This helps us direct all our resources in a more meaningful way.

The survey takes about 4/5 minutes of your time but will be invaluable to volunteer Board Community Members on the Trust and work going forward.

Please take the Pulse survey here and thank you for taking the time to participate.





Winter Wonderland

& CHRISTMAS MARKET 2023

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER
SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER
4PM-8PM
THE WILDSIDE CENTRE



**SPECTACULAR LIGHT SHOW/ SANTA'S GROTTTO/
LOCAL CRAFTS/ COMMUNITY GROUPS
REFRESHMENTS/ KIDS CORNER/
CAROL SINGING/ RAFFLE
AND MORE!**

**BOOK YOUR SPOT IN SANTA'S GROTTTO AT THE LINK
BELOW NOW!**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE ON THE 26TH NOVEMBER SO THE
ELVES CAN GET TO WORK!**

**[HTTPS://WWW.STRATHERRICKCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK/
SANTAS-GROTTTO-BOOKINGS/](https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/santas-grotto-bookings/)**



www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

Stratherrick Primary School &
Nursery Parent Council

ST ANDREWS DAY CEILIDH

THE WILDSIDE CENTRE
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023

FAMILY FRIENDLY 6:30PM-8PM
WILD ONES FROM 8PM TILL LATE

CEILIDH BY LOCAL MUSICIANS/ KIDS DISCO /RAFFLE
GAMES & ACTIVITIES TO FUNDRAISE FOR
STRATHERRICK PARENT COUNCIL

Bring your own Bottle and snacks!

ADULTS £5
CHILDREN £2
PAY AT THE DOOR

CASH ONLY PLEASE!

To reserve tickets please email Fiona
fiona_mohan@yahoo.co.uk or phone
07742254200




Community CHRISTMAS PARTY!

THE WILDSIDE CENTRE

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023

2-4PM

FUN | GAMES | MUSIC | FOOD

FOR ALL PARENTS WITH CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO P7 IN THE STRATHERRICK & FOYERS AREA

TO RSVP PLEASE CONTACT KIRSTY BALFOUR AT
kirsty.balfour.19@gmail.com **OR FIONA MOHAN AT**
fiona_mohan@yahoo.co.uk **BY 30TH NOVEMBER.**

EVERY CHILD TO HAVE A RESPONSIBLE PARENT PRESENT

SAVE THE DATE!

HIRE THE WILDSIDE CENTRE FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENTS & GROUP MEETINGS

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

1 MEETING/TRAINING ROOM For up to 29 people



CONTACT admin@sfctrust.org.uk

JOIN THE TRUST

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

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

MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS... AND PHOTOGRAPHER

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

Thanks also to Russell for his fab photos.

