

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

Feb 2023 Issue Number: 41

SINGING SENSATIONS



WARM Wednesdays at the Wildside



WARM WEDNESDAYS

The door is
The kettle
heating is
Cozy up for the
9.30 - 5.30

INTRODUCING OUR NEW DIRECTORS



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

CHAIR'S BRIEFING

Better economic data is in the news, and it could not come too soon. If anyone says a relatively prosperous looking place like ours has avoided the worst of the cost-of-living crisis, don't believe it. Many thanks to the team at the Knockie Trust for the work they have done reviewing applications for the cost-of-living grants that are being funded by the Community Benefit funds.

By the closing date, the Trust had received close to 60 applications, which equates to somewhere between 150 and 200 adults and children; a significant proportion of the 800 men, women and children who live in our area.

The stories behind the applications are quite upsetting. The vast majority relate to help with fuel bills to keep the heating on (during one of the colder winters) and to buy food for their children.

The £25,000, approved by our funders, has now been exhausted and we will keep you posted on when it next opens, probably towards the end of the year when the cold weather strikes again.

There is encouraging news, we appear to be getting close to getting all the big legacy projects in play. Work on restoring Errojue Church started this week and the

steering group for Riverside is up and running. Many thanks to Highland Councillor Chris Ballance for the time he is giving to this project to help us get to a place where we can work together on this project with a degree of harmony.

Good news too from Hugh Nicol, chair of the Stratherrick Public Hall Committee. The building should re-open towards the end of February. Look out for the invitation to the celebration! Although Hugh does warn 'best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley! Our fingers are crossed that we will hear shortly from The Highland Council on the plans for a slipway at Foyers Bay.

So that's buildings; there's also good news on the people front. Community volunteers are again stepping out from behind the shadow of the pandemic and lockdown. What is incredibly encouraging is a willingness to lead the community action groups that were established to implement the Community Action Plan. Many thanks to Graeme Ambrose for stepping into the chair of the Paths Action Group and Peter Faye is driving, in his own inimitable style! the Housing Action Group. The Heritage Society, led by the irrepressible Alister Chisholm, is putting together a whole scheme of work to protect the heritage of the area for future generations.

Meanwhile, Sarah Byrne, one of the Trust's fund raisers, has landed a chunk of

money (thanks again Chris B) from The Highland Council to buy 3 Polycrubs (just Google it!) to provide under-cover space for a Community Growing project. First to take delivery will be the Resident's Group at Inverfarigaig. I'm writing this listening to Foyers Bay Radio which reminds me – Gary, it's not quite a community farm but that will come next!

Thanks to all the other volunteers that are doing great work – including the Soup To Go team which is looking for support (see Page 7)

There is, though, a very significant gap in the volunteer army. We need someone from the community to pick up the environmental baton. Who is out there, preferably as a director, or as an Action Group leader, to push forward projects to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area? Please drop me an email at gareth-dir@sfctrust.org.uk for further info.

As all this activity gathers pace and the community starts to take control of its destiny (e.g. The Highland Council is adopting your 'Place Plan') we can start to dream of a potential goal; Stratherrick and Foyers becomes a truly self-sufficient community. This will be the best way of creating certainty and security in a world that is becoming increasingly chaotic, complex, and unpredictable.

Gareth Jones
Chair S&FCT

BUS TIMETABLES

Highland Council now runs the buses!

Highland Council has taken over the buses which run between Foyers and Inverness and between Whitebridge and Inverness. Stagecoach stopped running the routes on 4th January 2023.

Chair of the Highland Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Ken Gowans said: The Council's new

buses will deliver passenger and school transport services at a lower cost than commercial contractors.'

Highland Council took the step of buying twelve buses to run a pilot project for a number of school-based routes. The Highland Council makes service announcements and provides additional detail at their new bus Facebook page. www.facebook.com/people/Highland-Council-Buses/100088890518925/

Full timetables for Highland Council services are available at this link www.highland.gov.uk/info/1526/public_and_community_transport/111/public_transport/5

The Highland Council single deck buses are currently black and white, although their double deckers may be red.



STRATHERRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL SINGING SENSATIONS

Stratherrick Primary were privileged to be included in The Winter Wonderland this year. We had a stall and sang some Christmas Songs. We found the event to be very well organised and run. There was a warm welcoming atmosphere and everyone was in good spirits. A particular favourite experience meeting Santa and his Elves (oh, and the most yummy hot chocolate)!

We sold crafts we had made in school, on our stall. This gave the children a great opportunity to develop both their crafting skills and also the process of costing materials and working out how much things should be sold so that we did not lose any money (and hopefully make a profit). The children and staff took it in turns to manage the stall and this helped develop their money handling skills and social skills.

Alongside our friends at Foyers Primary we also sang some Christmas songs on both the Friday and Saturday evenings. This was so much fun! It was also the first time some of our pupils had performed in front of an audience. The experience they had will last a long time in their memories as everyone



(not just us) was singing along, which made it feel like a big family event. It was great to team up with Foyers Primary. Seeing our friends from a different school definitely helped to create a buzz and added to the volume and complimented the quality of singing. This team up would not have happened if it hadn't been for the event, so thank you for that opportunity.

We would love to be involved again this year. It is so valuable and meaningful being involved in community events as this develops links and friendships. Thank you to the organisers and everyone involved in pulling off such a super, warm and inclusive event.

Stratherrick Primary School.



COMMUNITY PARTY IS BACK!

The yearly Community Christmas Party has always been a highlight for our area's younger members. It gave the children a chance to socialise with friends who attend different schools, and it has always been well supported and attended.

Unfortunately, due to Covid, the children have missed out on this much-loved event for several years. With Covid restrictions finally relaxing and a sense of normality returning, local volunteers consisting of parents got together, determined to restart this yearly tradition with the support from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust.

A date was set, Wildside Centre booked, and the planning commenced (Aided by coffee and cake at Camerons tea Room). The party bags were assembled, decorations bought, party games devised and food in abundance purchased... we were ready to go.

Snow arrived in the Strath the week before the party, but in true Highlander spirit (and limited alternative dates available) we decided to go ahead.

The party was well attended, with only a couple of children unable to make it due to the weather. An amazing time was had by all. The children danced and played games with our very own Stratherrick elf, and the food was enjoyed. Parents were able to catch

up with others they hadn't seen for some time, and everyone helped on the day. There was a real sense of community spirit.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and commitment to help bring our community Christmas party back to life, after the last few difficult years. Also thank you to all the parents who supported the event by bringing their children along and getting in the festive spirit. Lastly a big thank you to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for funding the children's party.

We look forward to this year's party and we hope for bigger and better plans.

Fiona Mohan



WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTORS

I have lived in Gorthleck for five years now, I am originally from Inverness. I have worked within the care sector both private and public sector, for over twenty years, in various roles and working with differing client basis of all ages. I also have a degree which assisted me with understanding the issues surrounding rural healthcare which I'm hoping will be useful within this role. I have two young children at the local school and am invested in making the community better for people of all ages.

Susan Greer

JOIN THE TRUST

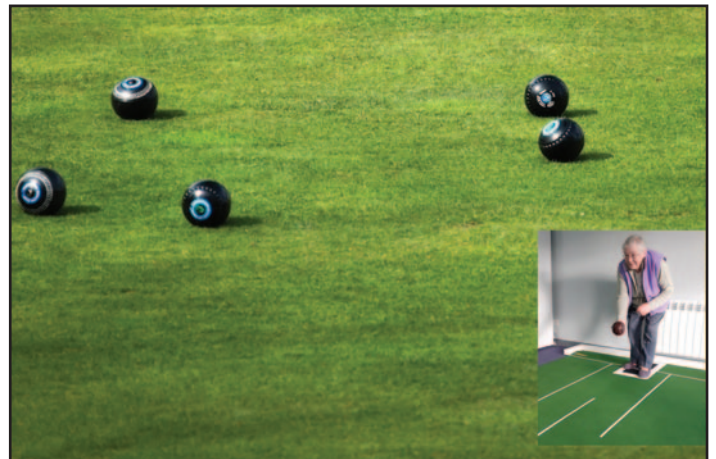
If you would like to become a member of the Trust then please go to.

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



MALCOLM STEWART

Brought up on the shores of the River Ness where my father was a Head Ghillie, this gave me a deep appreciation and understanding of the unique environment in which we live as well as becoming a keen fly fisherman at a very young age. Schooled in Inverness, I went on to study Marine engineering which led on to a long career as a Marine Engineer. Working in many marine sectors including Commercial, Leisure, Recreation, Military and Renewables delivering high worth contracts in short timescales under extreme pressure all over the world. Over a decade ago I started my own Marine Engineering business based in Inverness operating internationally and nationally, this gave me access to remote coastal communities around Scotland and an understanding how fragile coastal communities rely on community spirit and community infrastructure. Now settled in Lower Foyers I continue to consult into the Marine Industry as well as operate Foyers Pier with two passenger charter boats taking trips out onto Loch Ness working in the outdoor adventure tourism sector. I am very much looking forward to bringing my experience and expertise to serve the local community.



INDOOR CARPET BOWLS

Every Tuesday afternoon
2-5 pm

The Wildside Centre

A fun, social afternoon of bowling, tea, biscuits
and a blether.

It's certainly a laugh!

For more information contact:

Alison on 01456 486 586

Janet on 01456 486 688

IN MEMORIAM

Family announcements from the local press and funeral directors



IAN MACASKILL (WHITEBRIDGE)

19.05.1929 – 20.12.2022

Peacefully at home on Tuesday 20th December 2022, surrounded by his loving family, Ian MacAskill, West Drummond, Whitebridge and 'Ardochy', aged 93 years. Dearly loved husband of Dulcie and loving dad to Ann, Eileen and Dulcie. Also a loving grampa/grandpa, great (old) grampa and friend to many.

A full article in memory of Ian will be in the Spring edition of the Magazine.

SAMUEL REID

Peacefully, at Culduthel Care Home, Inverness, on 5th January, 2023, Samuel Reid, formerly of Nairn and Highfield, Gorthleck, aged 87 years. Beloved husband of the late Doris, loving father of Paul and Brian, dear father-in-law to Karen and the late Sheila, dear brother to May and David, grandpa to Charlotte-Rose and brother-in-law to Marion, Pauline and David and the late Len and Peter, loving son of the late David and Flora and a kind friend to many. Funeral service on Tuesday, 24th January, 2023, at 1pm, in Boleskine Church of Scotland; immediately thereafter at adjacent Drumtemple Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Donations welcome for Alzheimer Scotland at the service or forwarded to the funeral directors, William T. Fraser and Son, Culduthel Road, Inverness, IV2 6AB.

MARY ELIZABETH WOOD (INVERNESS / FOYERS)

Passed away at Raigmore Hospital on 5th January 2023, Mary Elizabeth Wood m.s. Scorer, known to all as Molly, aged 90, of Culloden and formerly of Foyers; beloved wife of the late Bill, dearly loved Mum to Jeff, Billy and Catriona, special Nana to her 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Private funeral at her own request. Molly's family would like to thank all the staff who cared for her at Raigmore and the staff of Fraser Home Care. Donations welcome in memory of Mary for Friends of Raigmore Hospital towards COPD equipment for Ward 7A.



LOCAL PLACE PLAN UPDATE

Following the community events around the villages in November, Nick Wright and his team have a wealth of suggestions and ideas on which to produce the Local Place Plan - together with the Community Action Plan and all everyone's input to that in 2021, which hasn't been forgotten.

To see pictures of the events and all the fascinating suggestions that were put forward, visit www.communityfuture.net/news

Nick and his team are now busy preparing the draft Local Place Plan itself for everyone to comment on.

Each of our villages will have its own map with proposals for the future, plus a community-wide map.

Following a presentation at the Community Council meeting on 31 January in the Wildside (7:30pm), the draft plan will be shared for everyone to check and comment on - online at www.communityfuture.net and in hard copy. Please keep an eye out and take the time to check that you think what's proposed is right for your community.

The Plan will then be updated before it is published online and in hard copy, and submitted to the Council to feed into planning policy and other services.

Nick Wright

TRUST MANAGER REPORT

Happy New Year everyone. We've had a busy start to 2023 - here are some of the highlights.

PATHWAYS

We had our first Pathways meeting of the new year, with Forestry and the Highland Council in attendance. This was a very positive meeting and I'm hopeful we can see improvements on our current network of paths, how to sustain them and then perhaps develop other areas in the future.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Those who had shown an interest in the Steering Group for the Riverside Project were invited to this meeting, to help

establish one Riverside Community Liaison Group. This was a condition of planning but was likely to happen anyway. Cllr Chris Ballance chaired the meeting. We are looking for community members who have an interest in sport and recreation to join this group. Please do email me at tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk

BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting happened on Wednesday 11th January. We touched on over 50 people applying for Food and Fuel Grants, who would be team leaders for which projects (and how they can make things happen), training for Board Members, employing local contractors on projects when we can, status of projects including storage/lighting at Wildside, Errogie Phase One, Riverside Planning, Slipway Planning, Inverfarigaig developments, housing, Stratherrick Hall repairs, BCC lease and land around Foyers, Winter Wonderland success and more!

HELP DURING WINTER

We will review if there are any more funds for Food and Fuel at the end of January, but meantime that fund has been suspended.

Details are available now about a local grant from Highland Council to help you with energy efficiency measures for your own home. To register your interest now email: EES-ABS@highland.gov.uk Please quote: EES:ABS 2022/23 – SFCT

Take a look at their website too with more advice here. This is a local grant and although there is set criteria it would be useful to apply if eligible <https://www.gov.scot/policies/home-energy-and-fuel-poverty/energy-saving-home-improvements/>

Tony Foster
SFCT Manager

WARM WEDNESDAYS

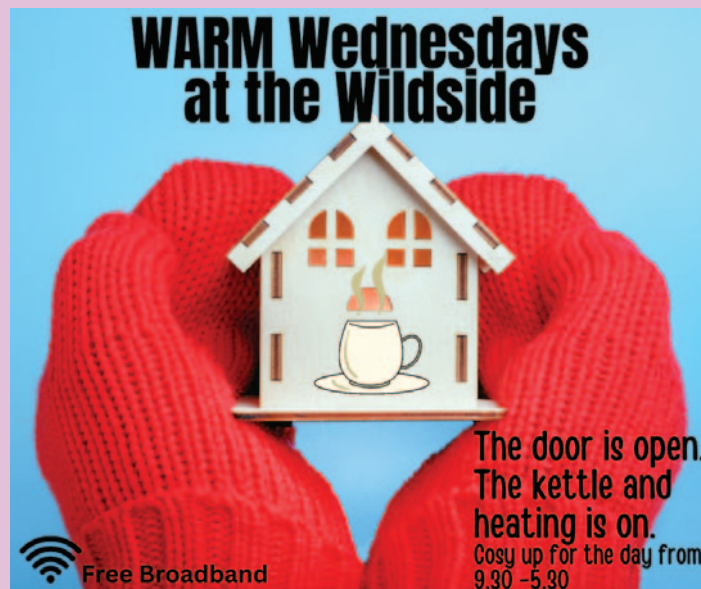
To support the cost-of-living crisis the Wildside Centre will be open to Stratherrick and Foyers residents, every Wednesday throughout the Winter from 9.30am - 5.30pm. You can be warm, have a cuppa, biscuit, and free broadband to watch a film, do some work or just meet up with other people in our community space.

We want this to be an open-door policy for you so that you can feel welcome, warm, and not have to heat your own place for the day. Enjoy some company or pick a quiet spot in the Wildside Centre.

The Community Larder is also available every Wednesday at the Wildside Centre. Thank you so much to Morrisons Inverness Community Champions and the recent funds granted from Hubbub Community Fridge Project so that we can carry this project forward into 2023.

You can collect your free larder provisions at The Wildside Centre every Wednesday

There is a box outside with supplies so you can come at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



We are aiming to open this on a wider scale at the Hub at BCC and the local schools. Please contact Sharon or Sarah if anyone needs a box. Please get in touch, we are here to help.

sharon@sfctrust.org.uk or sarah@sfctrust.org.uk

Soup to Go



SOUP TO GO

Come and join us for lunch between 12 and 1:30pm every Monday at the Wildside Centre.

Soup to Go is all about bringing our community together. Each week our friendly volunteer staff provide a choice of two hearty soups, freshly baked bread, homemade cakes, tea and coffee all the for cost of £3.00.

Don't have time to stop for lunch? We offer a collection service, so you can pop in, say a quick hello, and grab your order to go. If you are not able to get to the Wildside Centre due to exceptional circumstances, then our lovely volunteers will deliver your lunch to you.

Ordering your lunch in advance is essential to allow us to provide enough for everyone. Menus, containing all the details of how to order, are posted in

advance around the Strath, and on the Soup to Go - Stratherrick Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1464102787285437/?mibextid=6NoCDW>

All dietary requirements can be catered for, just let us know in advance.

But, our community lunches are about more than just food. Every week we have a local musician who plays for us; we have a small lending library of donated books; we have bingo, games or quizzes too. The main thing is coming together, getting to know each other better and sharing good times.

Fancy volunteering? Everyone is welcome to be a part of Soup to Go. We have many ways you could be involved – from donating ingredients; putting out tables and chairs; delivery driving; looking after our lending library; to writing us a quiz! If you have any ideas about something you could contribute, then we would love to hear from you.

For more information or to place an order, please contact Pam Simpson on 01456 486 364 or Lyn Woods on 01456 486786

Please call before 6pm on Sunday

GIVE ONE TAKE ONE

Have you got any good quality cosy jackets that need to be re-homed this winter? Pop along to the Wildside Centre, where you will find a clothing rail dedicated to GIVE ONE/TAKE ONE. Men's, women's and children's winter jackets and fleeces welcome. Take a look every Wednesday or if you are popping in for one of the many classes or events have a look.





Rosie Adams



Rory Fallon



Lily Peterkin



Will & Holly



Alastair and William Glew



Sophia Barclay

DEADLINE DAY

We are starting to put together our Spring Magazine and we need to hear from you! Our deadline for submissions is the 24th February 2023. We would love to hear your stories, recipes and any general information you feel you would like to share with the community. Please send your submissions to strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk and include your name, content and a high quality image if possible.

ARE YOU RUNNING A CLASS OR ACTIVITY?

We are updating our 'What's On' Calendar for the start of 2023! Do you have a class running in the community? An event? Something people might want to get involved in? Then please email your information to communications@sfctrust.org.uk and we will get you included. For information on 'What's on in February' head to <https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/whats-on/>

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.

