## STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS

July 2025 Issue Number: 56

## WELCOME TO YOUR HIGHLAND GATHERING NEWSLETTER SPECIAL!

The Highland Gathering returns to Corriegarth Estate this summer, and along with the old favourites, we have a few new things lined up for you too!

The Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band will open the event and Cheryl Heggie's Highland Dancers have been working hard again this year to share their talents with us in the main ring.

Please bring your dogs with you and enter them in the dog show – more information on how to enter and a list of the categories can be found on pages 12 and 13.

The money we raise from the dog show will be donated to Munlochy Animal Aid, so remember to enter as many categories as you are able!

Along with Munlochy Animal Aid, we have a selection of other local charities represented this year. RSABI are again our chosen charity for the Silent Auction, and Cairngorms Mountain Rescue, RNLI, Foyers Fire



Brigade, Mikey's Line, Changeworks, Home Energy Scotland, Scottish Greyhound Sanctuary and The Neil Mackenzie Trust will be on hand to chat.

There are also competitions – we have homebaking and growing again, and the Johnston Trophy will be awarded to the best local wool creation by a member of our community. More details on these can be found on pages 4 and 5.

There will of course be plenty to do for all the family. There will be face painting, beat the goalie, and willow weaving workshops run by Christiane Morley of Inspiration Scotland. Our bouncy castles and bungee run are back again, and welly wanging, races and pull the tractor return to the main ring.

Please remember to bring cash with you – although there is Wi-Fi, and card readers will be available on some stands, elements of the event such as the raffle and dog show will be cash only.

This is just a sample of what will be on offer – you will find more details on all that is going on in the following pages, so please read on, keep Saturday 19th July firmly in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you!

Caroline Tucker, Event Lead

Photo by Jillian Barclay

The deadline for content for the August magazine is **Friday 26th September 2025**.

Please email strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk with your articles including your name and a picture!



## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

There will be a wide selection of activities for the children to get involved in on the day, including races and welly wanging (you can collect your registration form for these at the Welcome Tent on arrival), beat the goalie with Boleskine Camanachd Association, fly casting with Gary Ferguson from Corriegarth Estate and of course the bouncy castles!

There will also be facepainting in the Corriegarth tent, and when you need some down-time, there is a dedicated family zone next to the bouncy castles where you can have a rest.

Remember to get creative ahead of the day, and enter our baking, gardening or wool craft competitions! You can find more details on these, and how to enter, on pages 4-5.

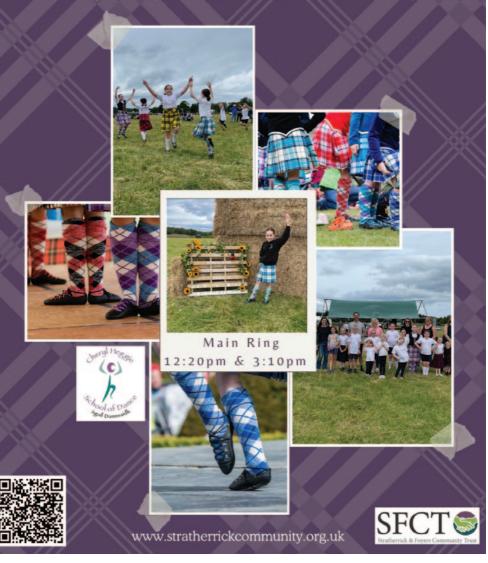




The Highland Gathering 2025 Corriegarth Estate, IV2 6UL

# HIGHLAND DANCING

Cheryl Heggie School of Dance is back! Cheryl will be showcasing her dancers skills in the main ring at : 12:20pm and 3:30pm featuring our very own dancers from Stratherrick & Foyers!



#### The Highland Gathering 2025 Corriegarth Estate, IV2 GUL

## Home Baking Competition

Can you create the best novelty cake at this year's Highland Gathering?

Class 1: A small, decorated novelty cake of your choice (under 16's) Class 2: A decorated novelty cake of your choice (Adults 16 and over)

Judge: Mo MacPherson



Please submit all entries to the Loch Mhor Tent on the Highland Gathering field by 1



## COMPETITIONS

We're excited to bring you the ever-popular competitions again this year! Baking and gardening are back, and we have a new wool craft competition too. Be as creative as you can, there are some exciting prizes on offer!

Competition judging will take place in the Loch Mhor Tent (located to the left of the Welcome tent as you enter the show field), so please submit all entries there by 1pm on event day.

Thanks in advance to our Judges:

Home Baking – Mo MacPherson Miniature Garden – Helen Grainger Wool Craft – Mag Campbell





#### WILLOW WEAVING

We are delighted to welcome back local basket maker Christiane Morley, who will run a small number of workshops at the Highland Gathering.

Children and adults are invited to make their own tea light holder.

You will also learn basic things about willow weaving.

No previous experience is necessary; the workshop will be free of charge. Children under the age of 10 need to be accompanied by an adult to help them with the weaving.



Workshops will run at 12.30pm and 2.45pm and will last about 30 minutes each. If you are interested, please contact Christiane to book a place either at info@inspiration-scotland.com or through Facebook.



#### **MEG'S MINDFUL MOVEMENT**

Meg's Mindful Movement will be delivering a taster session of chair yoga, focusing on strong hands and legs, at 1.45pm in the Loch Mhor Tent. This is accessible to all over the age of 16.

If you would like to book in advance, please visit www.megsmindfulmovement.co.uk or contact Meg via Facebook messenger, otherwise please just turn up!

If you can, please bring your own blanket for relaxation.





## BAYWA R.E. AT THE HIGHLAND GATHERING

BayWa r.e. is proud to be part of this year's Highland Gathering and to continue our support for this fantastic local event. As the developer of the Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm, we are delighted to sponsor the main marquee, officially named the "Corriegarth Tent". With the Gathering taking place on the Corriegarth Estate, it is a fitting way to celebrate our connection to the area and our ongoing commitment to the local community.

The Highland Gathering is a much-loved date in the calendar, and a great opportunity to catch up, celebrate, and enjoy everything that makes this part of the Highlands so special. The BayWa r.e. team will be in the marquee throughout the day to share updates on Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm, which is set to begin construction in Spring 2026. We will be



available to answer questions and talk about how the project will support the area through community investment, biodiversity improvements, and local opportunities.

Younger visitors can look forward to wind energy-themed crafts, face painting, and some fun giveaways, something for everyone to enjoy.

Jilly Adams, Lead Developer for Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm, said: "It's a pleasure to be supporting the Highland Gathering once again. It's such an important event for the local area and it's great to be part of it, we are looking forward to another brilliant day."

Be sure to stop by our stand inside the Corriegarth Marquee and say hello!

### TOKENS!

Enjoy a burger on us!

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust will be operating a token system, which entitles every community member to a free burger from the community barbecue!

Thank you to Corriegarth Estate who have once again kindly donated the burgers for this year's event.

Remember to collect your tokens from the welcome tent!



PLEASE CUT OUT THIS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER OR BRING YOUR WHOLE NEWSLETTER TO THE WELCOME TENT TO COLLECT YOUR TOKENS.

## RACES

There are a number of ways that the more active among us can get involved too, as the Hill Race, 100m dash and Pull the Tractor are back again this year! Please collect your registration forms for all of these activities at the Welcome Tent on arrival.

We'd love to see more teams in the Pull the Tractor this year, so gather your shinty or football team members, your work-mates or even family members and bring them along! Last year clan Gillies was well-represented – are you part of a large extended family?

How about farmers vs keepers, or the fire brigade vs the shinty team? Who could win this year?

Pull the Tractor is open to all ages, so select your team and join in the fun!

Each team must have a minimum of 4 members.







## LOCH NESS RURAL COMMUNITIES

We are pleased that Loch Ness Rural Communities will again be part of this year's Highland Gathering. As an organisation, they do excellent work promoting rural skills, job opportunities and the importance of rural land & wildlife management. Visit their stand to learn everything you need to know



about this sector. There will be something there for everyone, including cooking demonstrations (which were extremely popular last year!), quizzes and activities for children, and the opportunity to chat to those involved in this sector in our local area.

Keep an eye out on the event Facebook page for further activities at this stand!



#### RAFFLE

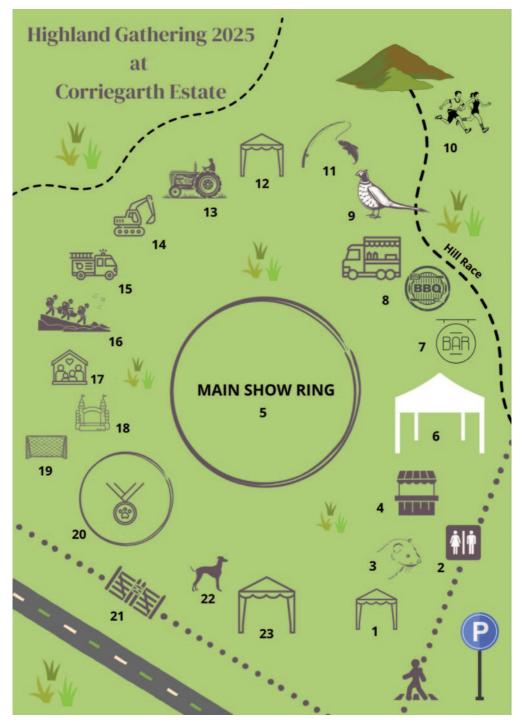
This year FIRA (Friends of Inverness Royal Academy), who organise our local Youth Club, will be running the raffle to raise funds to help them run more activities for the young people of Stratherrick and Foyers. You will find the raffle stand located in the Corriegarth Tent, so please show your support for this fantastic community group by buying lots of tickets! If you would like to donate a prize, please bring it along on the day, or get in touch with contact.fira@aol.com

#### **COME AND TRY FLY CASTING!**

Have you ever fancied learning how to fly fish? Join Gary Ferguson (Fergie) from Corriegarth Estate, next to the LNRC stand and he will show you how to cast.

Open to all ages!





## Site Plan

| 1. Welcome Tent - Tokens,                       | 12.00 - 12.15 | Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band    |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| First Aid, Lost Property,                       |               | open this year's Highland Gathering |
| Volunteer/Staff Base                            | 12.20 - 12.40 | Highland Dancing with Cheryl Heggie |
| 2. Toilets                                      |               | School of Dance                     |
| 3. Ferrets<br>4. Outdoor Market                 |               |                                     |
| 5. Main Show Ring                               | 12.40 - 13.00 | Sheepdog Demonstration              |
| 6. Corriegarth Tent                             | 13.00 - 13.40 | Start of Hill Race                  |
| 7. Bar  |               | Kids races                          |
| 8. Food Stands                                  | 12 40 12 50   | Adults 100m Dash                    |
| 9. LNRC   |               |                                     |
| 10. Hill Race                                   | 13.50 - 14.10 | Pull the Tractor                    |
| 11. Fly Casting                                 | 14.10 - 14.30 | Vintage vehicle display             |
| 12. Heritage Tent                               | 14.30 - 14.50 | Inverness Royal Legion Pipe band    |
| 13. Vintage Vehicle Display                     | 14 50 - 15 10 | Gundog Demonstration                |
| 14. Farm Machinery                              |               |                                     |
| 15. S&F Fire and Rescue                         | 15.10 - 15.30 | Highland Dancing with Cheryl Heggie |
| 16. Cairngorm Mountain Rescue                   |               | School of Dance                     |
| Team  | 15.30 - 15.45 | Dog show winners' parade            |
| 17. Family Fun Zone                             | 15.45 - 16.00 | Drawing of the raffle               |
| 18. Bouncy Castles/ Bungee Run                  | 15.45 - 10.00 | •                                   |
| 19. Beat the Goalie                             |               | Competition Winners announced       |
| 20. Dog Show<br>21. Vehicular Access (emergency | 16.00         | CLOSE                               |
| access only during event)                       |               |                                     |
| 22. Greyhounds                                  |               |                                     |
| 23. Loch Mhor Tent                              |               |                                     |
|   |               |                                     |

#### **Dog Show Rings**

Please register your entries at the Dog Show gazebo. Judging begins at 12:30pm.

#### Loch Mhor Tent:

Willow weaving – 12.30pm – 1.30pm Competitions, entries to be dropped off by 1pm, judging 1.30pm. Mindfulness/ relaxation – 1.45pm – 2.30pm Willow weaving – 2.45 – 3.45pm.

Ferret Race times can be found at the Great Glen Ferret Association Tent.

The Fire Brigade will be running demonstrations throughout the afternoon – the timings of these will be announced during the event.

## **Schedule - Main Ring**

#### COMPANION DOG SHOW

(Held under Kennel Club Regulations) in aid of Munlochy Animal Aid

At

The Highland Gathering at Corriegarth

Saturday 19th July 2025 at Corriegarth Estate, Inverness. IV2 6UL

#### Entry Fees: £2 per class

Rosettes will be offered from 1st - 5th in each class, Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, Best Veteran in Show and Best Puppy in Show

Entries taken from 12 noon; judging commences at 12:30pm

Pedigree Classes - for pure bred dogs recognised by the Kennel Club (please note that dogs exhibited in this show do not need to be registered with the Kennel Club).

#### Judges: Linda Simpson (Pedigree Classes), Alannah Graydon (Novelty Classes)

#### Class No. Pedigree Classes

- 1. Any variety Puppy 6 12 months
- 2. Any variety Sporting dogs (Terriers, Gundogs and Hounds)
- 3. Any variety Non-Sporting dogs (Working, Pastoral, Toy, Utility breeds)
- 4. Any variety Veteran 7+
- 5. Any variety Open Best in Show and Best Veteran in Show will now be selected from the unbeaten dogs

#### Novelty Classes

- 6. Best cross breed
- 7. Best rescue dog
- 8. Best movement
- 9. Dog with the waggiest tail
- 10. Dog the judge would most like to take home
- 11. Dog most like its owner
- 12. The Odd Couple (any combination of two dogs)
- 13. Most handsome dog
- 14. Prettiest bitch
- 15. Best condition
- 16. Junior handler 8 11 years
- 17. Junior handler 12 16 years

#### <u>Rules</u>

Only undocked dogs and legally docked dogs may be entered for exhibition at this show.

No Dogs having gained a challenge certificate, reserve challenge certificate, green star or any award which counts to the title of champion in the UK & abroad.

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and you are required to clean up after your dog.

Your dog is vulnerable and AT RISK if left in a vehicle in high temperatures or even on days that are considered as slightly warm. Please take care of your dog.

If your dog is found to be at risk, forcible entry to your vehicle may be necessary without liability for any damage caused.

Right to refuse entries. Exhibitors/competitors are reminded that show societies have the right under Kennel Club Regulations to refuse any entry.

The judge's decision is final.

#### DOG SHOW

As in previous years, your canine family members are as welcome as your human ones! We have a wide variety of classes for you to enter your dogs into, so there should be something for all shapes. sizes and ages! There will be a winner's parade in the main ring towards the end of the Gathering, so if your dog is a winner, and you are able, please stay for this and give your dogs one last chance to show off!

Thanks again to Gill Gray who has taken on organising the dog show again, and to our judges, Linda Simpson and

Alannah Graydon. Thanks also to Royal Canin and Moray Coast Vets for their support.



THE HIGHLAND GATHERING CORRIEGARTH ESTATE, GORTHLECK, IV2 6UL

## COMPANION DOG SHOW

5 PEDIGREE AND 12 NOVELTY CLASSES ROSETTES TO 5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE

Any variety Puppy 6 - 12 months Any variety Sporting dogs (Terriers, Gundogs and Hounds) Any variety Non-Sporting dogs (Working, Pastoral, Toy, Utility breeds) Any variety Veteran 7+ Any variety Open

BEST IN SHOW AND BEST VETERAN IN SHOW WILL NOW BE SELECTED FROM THE UNBEATEN DOGS







The Highland Gathering 2025 Corriegarth Estate, IV2 6UL

# SOUTH SOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP



(Photo courtesy of South Loch Ness Heritage Group)

Be sure to linger at our tent. Realistically it's time well spent! Take a seat -Something to read -Something to view -A quiz to take home At the end of the day! Plus a test of your knowledge-Place names in our Strath. The prize could be yours If you hit the right path!



WELCOME! FAILTE! We look forward to seeing you there!

SFCT

## CRAFT MARKET AND COMMUNITY STANDS

We have an amazing selection of traders joining us this year, so please come and support these fabulous local businesses! They will be joined by local charities and community groups, including Boleskine Community Care, Changeworks, Home Energy Scotland and The Neil Mackenzie Trust. You can find them, and others, in the Corriegarth Tent, so please pay them a visit!



## INTRODUCING OUR FOOD TRADERS

We are so pleased to welcome back Drink Me Events, Grazey Days, Black Isle Dairy and The Highland Coffee Pod, who were all so popular last year! We will also be joined by Auld Smokey Pizza, who you may have seen down at the BCC Hub over the last few months, so it's fabulous that they can join us too!

Sadly, Adam and Jane from Lyne Mhor Croft can't be with us to run the barbecue this year, but we are glad to say that SFCT's Chair will be taking on the role as Head Chef! Thanks must go to Corriegarth Estate, who will



be providing the venison burgers again.

Please pop along and support these fantastic local

food and drink vendors, we couldn't run the event without them!

## LAUNCHING THE HIGHLAND GATHERING PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We would love to see your photographs of this year's Highland Gathering – let your photography skills shine and win a prize! Open to all ages, and it's simple to enter too; just upload your photographs by scanning the QR codes situated in various locations on the event field during the event, or on the event Facebook page by Sunday 27th July. The winning photographs will be displayed on the walls at The Wildside Centre and used for future event promotions. Judging will take place in August by members of the local photography group and prizes will be awarded to the top 4 entries.

(Please note that by submitting photographs in this competition, you are allowing Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust permission to use images for promotional purposes. If the entrant is under 18, submission assumes parental consent.)

Happy snapping!

#### SILENT AUCTION

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust are delighted to be supporting RSABI again through the silent auction at this year's Highland Gathering.

RSABI do vital work in supporting people involved in Scottish Agriculture in times of need, offering emotional, practical and financial assistance. Their services are available to those currently and previously involved in farming and crofting. Their aim is to provide a comprehensive service to support people who are experiencing difficult times so they are able to move forward.

You can find details of their full range of services by visiting their website www.rsabi.org.uk

For emotional support there is a dedicated helpline, which is available 24 hours a day every day – 0808 1234 555.

Here is just a sneak peak of some of the amazing prizes to be won:

A signed Peat & Diesel Record and CD's

2 x adult weekend passes, including camping, for Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival

1 day's Sika stalking at Corriegarth Estate

Inflatable voucher for Mascot Madness Entertainment

4 bottles of malt whisky, provided by Dell Estate

1 month's membership for High Life Highland

Cruise Loch Ness - Two tickets for a scenic cruise





#### When life feels overwhelming RSABI is here for you.

Call our freephone helpline on 0808 1234 555 or webchat at www.rsabi.org.uk

Thank you very much to the businesses who have generously donated – please dig deep for this amazing charity who do fantastic work in communities such as ours. You can enter the silent auction by filling in a bidding card at the auction table in the Corriegarth Tent. The winning bids will be announced at the end of the event.

## IN OTHER NEWS!



## THURSDAY SING!

The turnout for our newly launched Thursday Sing sessions has been amazing – it's been great to meet you all and sing together! This first block was just a taster to see if there was an interest in relaxed singing sessions in the community, and I am so pleased with the result, and I am happy to be able to share with you that we will be continuing after the summer holidays!

Dates: Thursday 28th August - 9th October. No sessions 16th and 23rd October Thursday 30th October - 27th November.

All sessions will run from 7.30 - 9pm.

The focus of the group is to have fun, sing with others and experience the feel-good factor singing can bring. Each session will include posture and gentle stretches, breathing & voice warm ups and songs from a wide range of styles and traditions.

Everyone is welcome - no previous singing experience is needed!

To find out more, you can contact me: Julieharvey@hindley.org.uk 01456 289035/ 07597 577527

Julie Harvey

## LOCH NESS BIODIVERSITY POLICY FORUM

'Biodiversity Net Gain' (BNG) is quite a mouthful, but in the current charge to build multiple energy schemes around Loch Ness, it is becoming increasingly important to protect, replace or enhance the rich diversity of habitat and wildlife under threat. Pump Storage Hydro (PSH) schemes at Foyers, consented scheme at Na Cathrach, previously known as 'Red John', and proposed schemes at Loch Kemp and Glen Earrach are flanked by multiple Wind Farms that surround Loch Ness.

The race to achieve Climate Net Zero is on a potential collision course to damage, or even eliminate, our natural heritage. Action is needed to engage with the developers and statutory bodies to raise awareness and ensure the community gets a say in the proceedings.

Thankfully, the Scottish Government, Highland Council and NatureScot policies and guidelines are emerging that require the developers to demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity using quantifiable metrics. But we need to be watchful to ensure the developers comply with the rules. Although the statutory bodies have a duty to check compliance, the avalanche of proposal documents and relatively short assessment timescale to process them could mean they are at risk of missing important factors that affect our local environment.

The Loch Ness Biodiversity Policy Forum has been set up by a group of likeminded people

who are concerned about damage and loss of the natural environment in the Loch Ness area, primarily caused or threatened by major renewable developments. The Forum is keen to ensure that all relevant decisions on planning applications within the Loch Ness area, will:

- Improve local biodiversity and the natural environment
- · Improve the management of land for nature
- Increase tree cover
- Avoid the use of natural open spaces for development
- Rigorously assess the local biodiversity of all sites prior to their re-use for

development

The Forum aims to ensure all statutory bodies enforce relevant biodiversity planning policies, laws and regulations to new major developments, amendments to applications and extensions to current developments around Loch Ness.

The Forum will liaise with other related groups to ensure there is no overlap of activities and aims to complement their work to achieve a common goal.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Loch Ness Biodiversity Policy Forum please contact:

Tina Jordan dunrigh@hotmail.com

## THANK YOU

A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes to ensure an event such as the Highland Gathering is a success, and much of this is done by community groups and volunteers, some of whom have already been mentioned in this newsletter. The event could not run, however, without the generosity of Henry and Molly Fraser of Corriegarth Estate, who allow us to use their land, and their staff who put in all the groundwork to ensure the site is safe to use. Many thanks to you all!

Additional thanks are required this year to our sponsor – BayWa r.e. BayWa r.e have been part of this event since it started in 2022, and have been generous in their support by providing raffle and silent auction prizes. This year, they have taken this a step further and agreed to sponsor the event, which we are extremely grateful for!



### MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

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





