

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS

April 2026 Issue Number: 58



OUR NEW  
COMMUNITY  
MINIBUS HAS  
ARRIVED

LNRC  
COOKING  
UP SOME  
TASTY  
RECIPES



FOYERS  
STORES  
UPDATE

and... We send Caroline our  
best wishes!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Stratherrick & Foyers News! In this issue you will find community news, stories and events, as well as updates from the Board on projects and grants awarded. If you have any photographs, recipes, stories or news that you would like to share with the community, please send them through to [strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk).

We are working hard to ensure that all members of the community are able to access copies of both our newsletter and our bi-annual magazine, which we are now sending out to every household that we have addresses for in the community! If you do not want a paper copy of the magazine or newsletter and would like to receive it electronically then please contact Kirsteen, our Administrator, at [admin@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@sfctrust.org.uk).

Peter Faye  
Chair, SFCT

## CONTENTS

|                                      |    |                                               |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| CHAIR’S REPORT .....                 | 3  | STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ..... | 17 |
| IN MEMORIAM .....                    | 4  | STRATHERRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL .....             | 18 |
| OTHER COMMUNITY NOTICES .....        | 5  | STRATHERRICK NURSERY .....                    | 19 |
| USEFUL CONTACTS .....                | 5  | TRUST PROJECTS .....                          | 20 |
| COMMUNITY MINIBUS .....              | 6  | WILDSIDE CENTRE .....                         | 21 |
| STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL .....       | 7  | FOYERS BAY/OTHER HISTORICAL PROJECTS .....    | 22 |
| BOWLING FOR ALL .....                | 7  | COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN REFRESH .....           | 23 |
| DANCING AT GORTHLECK HALL .....      | 8  | GRANTS .....                                  | 24 |
| PILATES .....                        | 8  | HEALTH & WELLBEING .....                      | 26 |
| BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE .....       | 9  | SOCIAL RUNNING GROUP .....                    | 26 |
| FOYERS STORES .....                  | 10 | PIER CAFE .....                               | 29 |
| BOLESKINE CHURCH .....               | 10 | HOME BAKING .....                             | 30 |
| BOLESKINE BIODIVERSITY GROUP .....   | 11 | CAMERONS TEA ROOM .....                       | 30 |
| INVERFARIGAIG RESIDENTS GROUP .....  | 12 | BEASTIE BOATS .....                           | 31 |
| SOUTH LOCH NESS SWIFT PROJECT .....  | 13 | FOYERS LODGE .....                            | 32 |
| SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP ..... | 14 | WHITEBRIDGE HOTEL .....                       | 33 |
| TRADITIONAL MUSIC SESSIONS .....     | 14 | CEO’S REPORT .....                            | 34 |
| FOYERS COMMUNITY FIRE STATION .....  | 15 | DIRECTORY .....                               | 35 |
| LOCH NESS RURAL COMMUNITIES .....    | 15 | DE-FIB MAP .....                              | 36 |

Photo by Robbie Burn

The Stratherrick & Foyers Magazine is published twice a year – both online and in paper form. Any opinions expressed are not the views of the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust and any businesses mentioned are not endorsed by the Trust.

# CHAIR'S REPORT

It seems around five minutes ago that I was apologising for mentioning Christmas in my last report, and here we are with daffodils poking through and buds in the garden starting to swell. Much has happened in the interim and of course, much is planned.

Our Christmas festivities appear to have been well received, and sincere thanks go to Mike and Morven for helping Santa "do his rounds" in the wonderful sleigh provided by Colin and decorated by Calum (whenever there are lots of lights and sound, Calum is the reason!). Julie and the Thursday Sing group provided an original and very entertaining selection of Christmas Classics during their concert and Alan and his Ceilidh Band had everyone breathing heavily with a fabulous traditional "Hooley" to round things off. A good time was had by all.

Last month we tried showing the Six Nations Rugby game between Scotland and England on "The Big Screen" at Wildside (Calum again!) and this was also a success – well, the result wasn't too good from my perspective, but you can't win 'em all – although the odd one would be nice! Of course, there's a football tournament this summer, and we wonder if showing the odd game would be of interest?

On more serious matters, the Board and Staff have been focussing heavily on the proposed acquisition of Foyers Stores. A very well attended meeting occurred in January where the Community turned out to demonstrate their support for the proposal. Those there will recall I outlined the processes we must go through, along-side our Funders, if we are to provide the very significant financial support requested. BCC has spent many hours and put in much effort to drive this project forward – acquiring a business, premises and staff isn't simple, is a very serious undertaking, and we have endeavoured to assist as much as we possibly can. As I write, lawyers are "to-ing and fro-ing" with all the necessary agreements and legislation with the target of 31st March (set by co-funders the Scottish Land Fund) for completion, so we keep our fingers crossed.

There have been some "expressions of frustration", shall we call them, from some in the Community, but I'm sure the vast majority realise that in order for a business to succeed, thorough and accurate planning, alongside appropriate due diligence are essential and SFCT, alongside SSE, BCC and all involved have made huge efforts to get things on a good footing and to give the project its best chance of success. Please remain supportive – and patient.

In other news we have an excellent new Project Co-ordinator. As many will be aware Caroline Tucker, our previous co-ordinator, left for "pastures new" (and we all offer many thanks for her efforts and wish her the very best of luck). Her post was very important and so we advertised and interviewed three excellent applicants. It was a difficult choice and decision, but we offered the job to Sorin Bogdan, of Whitebridge. Sorin has much experience in Construction and Project Management, and has already demonstrated his skills and knowledge, so "Welcome and Good Luck, Sorin!". I'm sure he will keep you all updated as different projects progress.



One of Sorin's first tasks is to manage the works to get Errogie Church open and being used. We know this is a contentious project and so have adopted a pragmatic approach, commissioning only the works required to bring the property up to specification, ensuring it is safe and comfortable, so allowing it to be used by the Community. We shall see how popular it is, what it is used for and how often, and can then make future plans. Contractors will be on site imminently and Sorin will keep us all updated on progress.

On another matter, it is now five years since we all contributed to, and published, our Community Action Plan. Time flies, eh? Well, the time has come to re-visit the document and assess if it's still relevant, what has been achieved, what hasn't, do we still want the same things or something different? Those decisions are yours, of course, so keep an eye out for more information on how you can express your opinions and make your views heard soon. The CAP is an extremely important document, as it offers a guide on what our Community wants and "where it wants to be" in the future. Please take the opportunity to be involved.

We have been very active with distributing grants too. You will find out more details about this process within the CEO report, which you will find towards the end of this publication.

Finally, may I offer my personal thanks to all the staff at SFCT. They are such a dedicated group, who all work far more hours than they are paid for – and put up with the likes of me and fellow Directors with never a word of complaint (well, not when we might hear them, anyway!!). Well done! Enjoy the Spring and Summer everyone and take care.

Peter Faye  
Chair, Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust



## IN MEMORIAM

MURIEL BARCLAY MACDONALD  
INVERFARIGAIG

Muriel and her two siblings, Grant and Isobell, were born in Inverfarigaig and had a lovely family upbringing.

School days were spent at Foyers School where the young children would walk to school from the age of 5 years, whatever the weather – approximately 2 and a half miles from their home.

Muriel left school at just 14 years of age and worked at the Inverfarigaig Post Office while her Mum had a wartime job at Foyers Aluminium Factory. At 17 years old Muriel became a Nanny at Dochgarroch House.

A friend invited Muriel to a dance at Dochgarroch Hall where she was introduced to her friend's brother, Ivan, whom Muriel would later marry and have two lovely daughters, Maureen and Lynda. The family was now complete. When Maureen and Lynda were older, Muriel worked for a solicitor doing clerical work in Inverness.

Having lived at Lochend for many years, Muriel and Ivan moved to a newly built home in Inverfarigaig in 1982, on the croft of Muriel's parents, Simon and Frances MacKintosh.

Muriel was a member of the WRI, loved the Church and both her and Ivan formed a lifelong friendship with Ian and Lorraine Fraser, Sadie Hipkin and family. There were also happy evenings spent with friends, Fachie and Betty MacDonald, and the Chisholm boys at the old Foyers Club.

Muriel was a great baker, knitter, an avid reader of Catherine Cookson novels and loved pottering in the garden.

Latterly she formed friendships with Val and Davy Shand and many musical evenings followed with Muriel on piano and Davy on concertina. She also enjoyed a friendship with her carer Ewelina and loved having her family come to visit especially at Christmas when the children would sing carols.

Muriel loved sitting in her chair by the window looking out onto the loch and would often say that she would never get tired of the view. She enjoyed a wee dram and was always very welcoming when dear friends, neighbours and family came to visit.

A loving Mum to Maureen and Lynda, much loved sister to Isobell and Grant and a special Aunty too. She will be missed so very much by friends and family.



## MOBILE LIBRARY!

**THE MOBILE LIBRARY WILL BE IN THE AREA ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**The Wildside Centre Car Park**  
**11:00 – 11:30**

**May 27<sup>th</sup> - Jun 24<sup>th</sup> - Jul 22<sup>nd</sup> - Aug 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Errogie – Yellow Brick Road**  
**10:15 – 10:35**

**Gorthleck - Village Hall Car Park**  
**10:45 – 11:15**

**Foyers – The Hub Car Park**  
**11:30 – 12:00**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – Jun 16<sup>th</sup> – Jul 14<sup>th</sup> – Aug 11<sup>th</sup>**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE DRIVER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.  
EXISTING MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED.**

**Driver: [mark.laurie@highlifehighland.com](mailto:mark.laurie@highlifehighland.com) - Tel: 01349 869869**

## KEVIN JOHNSTON

Kate Johnston would like to announce the safe arrival of this little guy, Kevin Robert Johnston on the 1st of February 2026 at 00:15am. He is so loved already.



## JANET HOBSON – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mike and Janet Hobson are pleased to celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary on March 5th.

We married in Gloucester in 1966, where we were both living at the time, and we have a wonderful daughter Jane, who is married to Adam Mason our lovely son in law.

Our granddaughter Emily and great grand daughter Izabelle both live in Newlyn, Cornwall. We moved the Highlands in 2011 and now live in Gorthleck.



## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS MEDICAL & EMERGENCY

### FOYERS MEDICAL CENTRE:

01456 486224

Website: [www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk)

### NHS 24:

Phone 111

### POLICE - Non-Emergency or to report a crime:

Phone 101

### MEDICAL, POLICE, FIRE, LOCH OR ANOTHER EMERGENCY:

Phone 999

### FOYERS FIRE STATION (Non-Emergency):

01463 24099

### POWER OUTAGE SSE Power Cut Helpline:

Phone 105

### POTHoles & FLOODING

To report a fault including potholes or flooding telephone either:

Tel: 01349 886601 (Office Hours Mon-Fri)

Tel: 01349 886690 (Evening & Weekends)

# COMMUNITY TRANSPORT UPDATE – NEW MINIBUS ARRIVES

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust are delighted to announce that we have now received our long-awaited community minibus from Highland Council.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the officers at Highland Council and Cllr David Fraser, who have all worked hard to help get this resolved.

The new vehicle is an 18-seater minibus with wheelchair access, and any drivers will require a D1 category on their driving licence. We are currently training our drivers that don't have a D1 on their licence.

The minibus will continue to provide runs similar to those already operating, but we will also be looking at ways to expand these services to better support our community.

We will also be working with Highland Council to carry out a community transport survey. This will focus particularly on the Whitebridge, Gorthleck and Erroglie areas, which have recently experienced reductions in public transport services, as well as the Torness area, which currently has no public service coverage. The survey will help us better understand the needs of local residents and how community transport can best support you.

The minibus will also support the local primary school with transport to sporting and educational events.

If you have any questions, suggestions for routes, or ideas for how the minibus could support the community, please get in touch:

Call or text: 07949 916955  
Email: [funding@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:funding@sfctrust.org.uk)

Thank you for your continued support as we develop and expand community transport across Stratherrick and Foyers and thanks to Highland Council for supporting this project.



## COMMUNITY MINIBUS

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST

# APRIL

**WED 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - COFFEE MORNING,  
BCC HUB WITH STOP AT FOYERS STORES**  
🕒 PICK-UP TIME: TBC

**SAT 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - AFTERNOON PICK-UP FROM INVERNESS**  
🕒 PICK-UP TIME: TBC

**FRI 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - BROTH 'N BLETHER AT BCC HUB  
WITH STOP AT FOYERS STORES**  
🕒 PICK-UP TIME: TBC

**SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - FOOD & CRAFT FAIR  
STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL**  
🕒 PICK-UP TIME: TBC

**SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - INVERNESS EARLY EVENING PICK-UP**  
🕒 PICK-UP TIME: TBC

**WED 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - AFTERNOON SHOPPING TRIP TO INVERNESS  
AND UHI / INVERNESS PICK-UP**  
🕒 PICK-UP TIME: TBC

### ALL PASSENGERS MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE

SUITABLE PICK-UP POINTS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT TIME OF BOOKING

TO BOOK CALL, TEXT: 07949 916955  
OR EMAIL: [SHARON@SFCTRUST.ORG.UK](mailto:SHARON@SFCTRUST.ORG.UK)

**THIS SERVICE IS FREE OF CHARGE**  
PART FUNDED BY THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL



# STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL

Stratherrick Hall is getting more and more popular again with the community. With various events happening weekly, these include Badminton on Sunday evenings, Short Mat Bowling Tuesday afternoons, dancing Tuesday evenings.

Wednesday mornings and evenings is Pilates, with Tai Chi on Wednesday afternoons. Thursday evening is Community choir.

There will be Metagama on 21st March, this is a touring production and not to be missed. Another Craft and Food Fair is booked for 25th April, and the Hall is booked for the election on 7th May.

We are still hoping to get new windows and doors and are glad of the help from Sharon from SFCT, (thanks Sharon), we should hear very soon if we have been granted part of the funding. We all have our fingers crossed that we are successful.



## INDOOR CARPET BOWLS

The indoor Short Mat Bowling at Stratherrick Hall continues weekly as usual every Tuesday afternoon starting at 2pm. We are a lively lot and enjoy a good laugh and some bowling, I'm not sure that our bowling is getting any better but our tea making skills are coming along nicely. We would like to see more like minded people come along to join us. If anybody fancies a try at bowling please do pop in to Stratherrick Hall.

Any enquiries please contact myself, Janet Hobson on 07771 800572 or Alison Randall on 07840 699958.

## Loch Ness Luvvies

Interested in joining the Loch Ness Luvvies?

We're inviting anyone who's curious about joining our friendly drama group to a relaxed social evening. There will be fun games, icebreakers, a chance to meet the group, and plenty of tea and biscuits. So, if you're interested in Acting, singing, backstage activities or just want to meet new people, come to our social for a great night out.

**No experience needed – enthusiasm is the only qualification.**  
Come and see what it's all about.



Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck, Saturday April 18th. 2.30 – 4.30 p.m.

# MORE THAN EXERCISE: HOW PILATES CHANGED MY LIFE

I didn't find Pilates through a fitness trend or a career plan. I found it through pain.

After a car accident left me with a damaged back, my life changed overnight. Simple movements became difficult. I was frustrated, uncomfortable, and unsure if I would ever feel truly strong again. Pilates became part of my rehabilitation, but it quickly became so much more than that. It gave me back control of my body. It rebuilt not only my strength and mobility, but also my confidence.

Created by Joseph Pilates, Pilates is built on the principles of control, precision, breath, and alignment. What makes it different is that it doesn't just target symptoms — it addresses the body as a whole. It strengthens deep stabilising muscles, improves posture, increases flexibility, and supports long-term spinal health. For me, it was life-changing.

Thirty years later, I'm still teaching — and my "why" has never been about financial gain. It has always been about people.

# Pilates

*Strengthen. Align. Breathe.*

Whether you're an **absolute beginner** or more **advanced**, these classes are designed to be **inclusive, supportive, and adaptable for everyone.**

**Wednesdays 10am & 7pm**  
**Stratherrick Hall**

£6 per session

**Just turn up or message for more info...**



I've seen clients walk into class in pain, unsure and disconnected from their bodies, and leave months later standing taller, moving freely, and feeling empowered. I've worked with individuals recovering from injury, managing chronic pain, rebuilding after childbirth, or simply wanting to age well and stay active. Pilates meets people where they are.

To me, teaching Pilates is about restoring confidence as much as restoring movement. It's about helping people live healthier, stronger, more pain-free lives. I know firsthand what it feels like to lose physical freedom — and what it feels like to regain it.

That is why, three decades on, I'm still passionate about every class I teach.

# DANCING AT GORTHLECK HALL



A weekly dance evening takes place in Gorthleck Hall on Tuesdays. This group started up around 2010 and at present 12 to 16 people attend regularly for a two hour session for the dancing including a break for tea or coffee and a chat.

Dancing is done, mainly in couples, to recorded music on a player. We started as a ballroom and sequence dancing group, but now we have branched out to include ceilidh and hope to include the odd Scottish Country dance in our repertoire soon. This suits couples who wish to



attend other organised dances, such as the one which takes place at Daviot Hall, to live bands, on the last Saturday evening of each month.

As a local group we benefit from free use of the hall so no charge is necessary for those who attend. Also we have no professional dance teachers, so no expense is involved there. We just bring along a biscuit and our dance shoes!

Demonstrations are done by experienced dancers in our group on the night, and we then learn by example, and hopefully have both good fun and good exercise. But then some of us actually practice at home with demos from YouTube!!

Many folk have joined us in order to go on to participate at social dances at weddings, ceilidh nights etc. There is a wide range of ability amongst us and we are proud of the way people pick up the dances and soon gain the confidence to step onto the floor and try out new moves.



## BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE

### BRINGING THE CUPPA TO YOU

As Community Engagement Coordinator at Boleskine Community Care, a big part of my role is connecting with people, especially those who might be feeling lonely, isolated, or simply in need of a friendly face and a chat.

While many people pop into the Hub for a cuppa and company, we know that's not always possible for everyone. For some, getting out can feel overwhelming. Others might not be feeling up to it. And that's absolutely okay. Community doesn't only happen within four walls, sometimes it starts right at your own kitchen table.

I'm very happy to offer home visits to anyone in our local area who would benefit from a bit of company, a listening ear, or a regular check-in.



We're also introducing something new - Hospital visits. If you have a loved one from our community who is facing an extended stay in hospital and you're unable to visit, I can pop in on your behalf. Sometimes knowing someone local has stopped by for a chat can bring real peace of mind to family members living further away.

If you, a neighbour, or someone you know might benefit from this, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can refer yourself or someone else, we're here to help, and sometimes the smallest conversations make the biggest difference.

## SPRING UPDATE FROM FOYERS COMMUNITY STORES LTD

It has been a busy and encouraging few months as plans progress to bring the village shop, café and Post Office into community ownership.

Funding for the purchase has now been secured by Boleskine Community Care, who will acquire the building and business. Following completion, the business will transfer to Foyers Community Stores Ltd, the Community Benefit Society established to run the shop and cafe on behalf of the community.

Behind the scenes, significant work is underway to ensure a smooth and sustainable transition. This includes governance arrangements, financial planning and preparing for the launch of our community share offer.

The share offer, which will be launched shortly, will seek to raise a minimum of £50,000. This funding will provide essential working capital during the first year of community ownership, ensuring the business is appropriately capitalised, operating on a debt-free basis and equipped to manage early transition costs.

The level of encouragement and support from across Stratherrick & Foyers has been incredibly positive. The shop is not only a



place to buy everyday essentials or enjoy a coffee, it is an important social hub and a valued local service.

Further details about the share offer and how to get involved will be shared soon.

Community ownership is about long-term resilience and local control, and this next stage will give everyone the opportunity to play a part. Thank you to everyone who has supported the project so far, together we are securing an important asset for the future of our community.

# COMMUNITY SHARE OFFER LAUNCHED FOR FOYERS STORES

An exciting new chapter is beginning for Foyers Stores. On 31 March, Foyers Stores will transfer into community ownership. Foyers Community Stores Ltd has launched a community share offer, giving local residents and supporters the opportunity to invest in the future of the business.

Community shares allow people to invest in businesses that benefit their community. Unlike traditional shares, they are designed to support long-term community ownership rather than private

profit. Each shareholder has an equal vote, regardless of how much they invest.

Investment starts from £25, making it possible for as many people as possible to take part. Our aim is to raise £50,000, which will help strengthen the business as it moves into community ownership.

Foyers Stores is more than just a shop. It provides essential services, supports local jobs and acts as an important meeting place for residents and visitors alike. Community ownership ensures that decisions about its future remain rooted in the needs of Stratherrick and Foyers.

We are particularly keen to encourage local participation and hope to see strong support from across the community.

To find out more about the share offer and how you can get involved, scan the

QR code to view the full share offer document and application details.

Together, we can help secure the long-term future of this important community asset.

Foyers Community Stores Ltd.



## BOLESKINE CHURCH

Boleskine Church is actually officially known as Boleskine Mission Church which in reality means that we share a minister with St Columbas New Charge in Inverness... Rev Scott McRoberts.

As Scott is committed to being at St Columbas on a Sunday morning we at Boleskine are very grateful to the people who willingly come to take services for us and preach.

What may seem like a problem has actually turned out to be an advantage. Much as it is lovely to have a minister committed to one place, there is also a broadness and difference between each individual person who comes to lead. This brings different insights into what Jesus is saying to us in the bible which can be thought provoking as well as encouraging.

We are also thrilled to have children coming along. They are able to have their own time with craft, quizzes and games based around the familiar passages from the bible. There is no child too young or too old to come along and join in.

Please do come and join us any Sunday, as frequently or infrequently as you are able. It is always lovely to have different faces around.

We are also having a special Easter Service on Easter Sunday which will be taken by Ian Bateman. The same format as the Christmas Carol Service... but for Easter... on Easter day at 10.30. Please do come and join in.

## Celebrate Easter!

Boleskine Church



Sunday 5th April 10:30

IV2 6UL

Local Mission Church in Union with Inverness St Columba

[www.stcolumbainverness.org](http://www.stcolumbainverness.org)

what3words widely.slap.sunblock

SC008109

# BOLESKINE BIODIVERSITY GROUP

## LOCH KEMP PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME - LATEST NEWS

Boleskine Biodiversity Group has joined forces with two national conservation organisations, Buglife and the British Lichen Society, to help protect one of Scotland's most iconic lochs and landscapes. The proposals for the Loch Kemp Pumped Storage development would see the destruction of protected ancient woodland and damaging impacts to the freshwater ecology of Loch Ness.

Loch Ness is one of the largest freshwater bodies in the UK, but despite its impressive scale, it is a sensitive ecosystem. An array of aquatic invertebrates inhabit the loch while many birds and fish, including the Endangered Atlantic Salmon and Critically Endangered European Eel, rely on this abundance of invertebrates. Salmon migrate through the loch to the spawning grounds of their natal rivers, where they have a vital role in the life cycle of the Critically Endangered Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

The ancient woodlands of the Ness Woods Special Area of Conservation lies on the eastern shore. This unbroken stretch

of woodland has trees covered with mosses and lichen, and are home to internationally important communities of lichen, including the second largest British population of *Nevesia sampaiana*.

Wildlife organisations are concerned about the threat posed by proposals for the Loch Kemp Pumped Hydro Scheme - Boleskine Biodiversity Group, Buglife, British Lichen Society and Ness District Salmon Fisheries Board say that the entire 50 miles of Loch Ness shoreline will be subject to rapid and frequent unnatural water fluctuations, that its rich and diverse invertebrate populations will be permanently damaged, while the migration of Atlantic Salmon migration will be affected and elver (young eels) will be drawn into intake pipes. All of this is alongside the complete destruction of the ecology of Loch Kemp, and cleaving the largest extent of ancient semi-natural woodland in the Great Glen in two to build a power station.

A Public Local Inquiry is to be held at the Wildside Centre, Whitebridge on the 14 and 15 April. The conservation groups have already raised over £8000 to help pay for expert legal advice and ensure the best arguments are made at the forthcoming Inquiry. For further information see Boleskine Biodiversity website and the Crowd Justice website.



# REWILDING GLEANN LIATH

Boleskine Biodiversity Group are assisting Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) to restore the native woodland in the north east part of Gleann Liath. The glen was largely cleared of conifers a few years ago and, as an ancient woodland site, FLS wishes to see the area regenerate to a more natural state. Saplings of birch, rowan, willow and alder are already growing well as a result of successful deer control. However, aspen which is already present in the Inverfarigaig area, has been lost from Gleann Liath. FLS and Trees for Life have between them provided 300 seed-grown aspen, plus a few oak, for planting in the glen. Over the past few weeks BBG volunteers have been busy planting the aspen, some in tree shelters and some without. Hopefully, in the next few years Gleann Liath will be a very different place to the dark wooded glen of the past.



## INVERFARIGAGIG RESIDENTS GROUP

It's been a long winter and I think everybody is looking forward to the spring, lighter mornings and evenings. When we can get back outside and enjoy the great outdoors.

Thanks to the Trust we were awarded a grant and over the winter we have been spending that! We now have three benches, one beside the Polycrubby and 2 in the field. I am pleased to report that although the weather has not been great, they have already been used by various people. The allotment area has now been fenced with two pedestrian gates. We still have room for another strip of growing beds. We also purchased more soil to top up the beds in the Polycrubby and built some more beds, I think we have now maxed out all growing space in the Polycrubby! We still have our irrigation system to plan.

The community are welcome to enjoy the field, its fenced so safe. All we ask is that you pick up after your four-legged friend.

Looking forward to getting back out into the garden and warmer days.





# **SOUTH LOCH NESS SWIFT PROJECT**

## SWIFT PROJECT

Welcoming our Swifts back to the strath.

Who does not rejoice to see the return of warm spring days? and with them, the arrival of our swifts, swallows and house martins?

These graceful aerial acrobats seem to bring the sunshine with them. No wonder we love them so!!

They will soon be arriving back in Stratherrick after spending the winter in Africa, returning to the place where they fledged.

All three species nest in our buildings and so depend on our hospitality.

Sadly, all these birds are in decline. The UK population of Swifts has fallen by 50% in the last 20 years. Many factors are thought to be at play, especially changes in climate and land management. Losses are also attributed to a scarcity of nesting sites.

To address this problem, the South Loch Ness Swift Project is working with house-holders to provide places for Swifts to nest. To date, we have provided accommodation for over a dozen pairs of Swifts in locations throughout the strath.

Stratherrick's swifts enjoyed an exciting development last year when a pair of young birds built a nest in a box installed at the old church in Errogie.

PIC 1. Installing nest-box on the gable of the old free church in Errogie

PIC 2. Two young Swifts enjoyed an intense spell of courtship, bonding and nest-building over a 5-day period, between 1st and 5th June.

Failing any mishap during the winter or on migration, this pair will return in May and raise a brood of chicks. The establishment of a new colony in the strath will be a very significant milestone in the project's progress.

We are currently raising funds to roll out the project. If you are interested in hosting a pair of these fascinating birds by installing a nest-box, make contact.

Or perhaps you would like to help build nest-boxes?

If you want to learn more about these birds, visit the Boleskine Biodiversity Group website.

Thanks to the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust and Nick Rhodes for supporting this project.

John Parrott  
[Johnparrottca@gmail.com](mailto:Johnparrottca@gmail.com)  
 07799 728768





## SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

On 10th November 2025 SLN Heritage Group held their AGM in Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck, followed by a talk by C. Anne Fraser (Family Historian with the Highland Archive Centre) on the Quirks of Family History Research.

Anne, who has been involved in researching family history for over 30 years gave us a comprehensive insight into all the various sources available to us in building up our own family tree knowledge. Her family have occupied the farm of Borlum, Dores since 1820. Based on her paternity (her father being Hugh Fraser) she explained how through Scotland's People website, certificates for



Births, Marriages and Deaths along with Census Returns, one could quickly build up a basic family tree. Once this far most people want to research further! Anne detailed other sources such as maps, wills, Kirk Session minutes, gravestones, newspaper articles, etc. enabling one to build up a fuller picture of the lives of one's ancestors. Anne included anecdotes from some of her findings which gave us an intriguing insight into family relationships in the past! It was an excellent talk from a speaker who is extremely knowledgeable on the topic of family history. Her presentation certainly kept the audience of over 50 people enthralled as every quirk was revealed. Anne is author of the book "Lessons by Loch Ness" which traces the story behind educational provision in the area from its earliest beginnings through to modern day. As well as our usual books for sale, Anne's book is available from SLNHG, priced £7.

Coming soon \_\_\_\_\_ A new book written by Alister Chisholm providing details of the history of the medical provision in the area up to 2015.

Our first meeting of the year was held on 21st January in Foyers School. We have much work to do ahead of us in these premises. We are accepting the kind offer by the Trust of the use of the community bus to enable us to visit some other Heritage centres to gain ideas and suggestions on storage, displays, documenting, etc. In the meantime - Watch this space!

We hope to have our next Heritage Talk in April. Details will be on the Trust website, our own website, and the community Facebook page. If you are interested in the Heritage of our area, do come along - all welcome!

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC SESSIONS

If you love music and singing or just enjoy listening, why not come along to one of the monthly music sessions hosted by Jack and Kirsteen Campbell?

Sessions are usually held on the last weekend of the month either at the BCC hub or the Wildside Centre. We have fiddlers, accordion players, a harpist, guitarist, and singers joining us regularly and are always open to other musicians and singers coming along. It doesn't matter how experienced you are, it's all about joining in and having fun! Details of upcoming sessions are published on social media.





## FOYERS COMMUNITY FIRE STATION

Foyers Community Fire station has a competent crew of 7 personnel, but we are in real need of new recruits, to keep the station sustainable, and operational, if interested please come at 18:30 on a Monday night which is our training night and have a chat, or email [David.main3@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:David.main3@firescotland.gov.uk) or [stewart.macpherson@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.macpherson@firescotland.gov.uk)

2025 has been a busy year for the Foyers crew attending nearly 40 call outs to a range of different incidents, We have attended wildfires, road traffic collisions, water rescues, also assisting the ambulance with patients, to name a

few, but also have been unable to respond to incidents in our station area due to low crewing numbers from time to time and other appliances have had to respond from further away.

We also have volunteered at the Lochness marathon and Lochness Etape, We also attended the highland gathering where we took part in a couple of demonstrations, and were present at the remembrance service at Stratherrick war memorial.

As we approach the spring and drier weather please be mindful being out enjoying the countryside in our local area, if you spot a fire in the open no matter how small always call 999 and ask for the fire service, we are looking to reduce the number of wildfires.

Reporting a wildfire you see outdoors  
Safety first: Position yourself away from

the fire, smoke, and any vegetation. If you are in your car, close all windows and vents.

Call 999 immediately: Request the Fire Service.

Stay calm, be detailed: Clearly state your location (road names, landmarks, or use a locator app like What3Words). Describe the fire's size and direction of spread.

Do not fight the fire: Wildfires are unpredictable and dangerous. Leave the firefighting to us, it's what we are trained to do.

Stay far away from the wildfire: The fire can smoulder or spread underground.

WC Stewart Macpherson  
On Call Support Watch Commander



## LOCH NESS RURAL COMMUNITIES

Before the end of the game shooting season Loch Ness Rural Communities held a couple of informal 'Pluck and Prepare' workshops to help folk deal with birds in the feather. The attendees were shown how to very simply de-breast a pheasant and at one we went all the way to pluck and spatchcock one for roasting.

Some excellent recipes were demonstrated from a quick and easy curry, goujons, a universal mix for pies which could also go in delicious lasagne (as tasted!) and a fabulous

schnitzel which coupled stress relieving hammer action with using up old stuffing mix from the back of the cupboard... truly sensational.

Loch Ness Rural Communities would like to thank all those who rolled up their sleeves and had a go, the young keepers and Molly for their enthusiastic assistance, Alison and Sheila for demonstrating with gusto and finally thanks to the estates that donated numerous pheasants to be practiced on and also some further local distributions thereafter.

We will try and replicate these again during the 2026 season and continue to work on getting a supply mechanism set up to get locally produced healthy foods out to your dinner tables!



## PHEASANT CRUMBLE

8 pheasant breasts

2 leeks

Plenty of peas

Bechamel sauce (don't ask me precise figures)

Breadcrumbs

Grated Parmesan

Seasoning

Brown the diced pheasant in some olive oil and soften the leeks. Add to a oven proof dish with the peas. Make and season the bechamel sauce and pour into the dish, giving it a good stir. Cover with bread crumbs and top with grated Parmesan! Cook at 180C for 40 minutes.



## PHEASANT GOUJONS OR NUGGETS

The secret = brine overnight for a juicy goujon:

Per 1L

50g salt

50g sugar

Sliced orange and lime(helps tenderise meat)

Liquid should cover meat

Brine overnight, rinse off and pat dry before frying

Use cornflour to seal partridge then egg wash then panko crumb cook in oil at 180 for 3-4min

FEC (ala Father Jack) – flour – egg – crumb



*Photo by Robbie Burn*

# STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) would like to update residents on several important matters currently affecting our area.

## ENERGY SCHEMES – PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRIES

Two major energy infrastructure proposals in our area are now subject to Public Local Inquiries.

The 1st stage of the Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme public inquiry is scheduled for 14th and 15th April, while the 1st stage of the Dell II Wind Farm inquiry is expected to take place on 27th and 28th July.

In Scotland, a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) is a formal planning process used when large or potentially controversial developments require further examination before a final decision is made by Scottish Ministers.

An independent reporter is appointed to hear evidence from developers, objectors, community representatives and other stakeholders. After reviewing all submissions and hearing evidence, the reporter makes a recommendation to the Scottish Government, which then makes the final decision. These inquiries are often lengthy and complex because they involve detailed evidence, multiple expert witnesses, and opportunities for all parties to present and challenge information. The process can take many months or even years from start to finish due to the scale of documentation, hearings, and careful consideration required before an outcome is reached.

Both inquiries will be available via live stream. At the time of writing, we are awaiting confirmation as to whether members of the public will also be able to attend in person. We will share further details as soon as they become available.

These are significant developments for our community, and we would encourage residents to stay informed.

## COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

We are pleased to share that we have increased the number of community defibrillators in the area. A new defibrillator has now been installed in Errogie, located on the church building, and a further device will soon be installed at the Farigaig Forest School.

These additions have been made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Etape Loch Ness cycle race, and we are very grateful to the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust (SFCT) for allowing us to site defibrillators on their buildings and for their continued support in helping us purchase replacement pads, batteries and other essential supplies.

The residents of Ault na Goire have also got a defibrillator that they have as public access.

These life-saving devices are available for use in an emergency, and we encourage residents to familiarise themselves with the location of their nearest defibrillator. In a cardiac emergency, quick access can make all the difference – please see map on the back page of the magazine for locations.

We also plan to run community defibrillator training sessions and will advertise these once dates are confirmed.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH SFCT

We are pleased to report that we continue to have good communication with Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust (SFCT), with a clear system in place for both parties to raise and address any queries that arise.

SFCT has recently approached us about holding further joint meetings that would be open to anyone in the community to attend, as they are keen to increase opportunities for public engagement. We think this is a great idea and look forward to arranging a date, which will be advertised in due course.

## FIREWORKS SURVEY

The topic of fireworks has arisen at several recent Community Council meetings. As a result, we have decided to carry out a community survey to better understand local views on the use of fireworks in our area.

Residents are encouraged to complete the online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/jsvlmw8>

Paper copies will also be available at the Wildside Centre, BCC Hub and Foyers Stores.

We value your feedback and would appreciate as many responses as possible to help inform future discussions.

## STAY INFORMED

Minutes from all Community Council meetings are available on our website - [stratherrickfoyerscommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://stratherrickfoyerscommunitycouncil.org.uk) We encourage residents to read them to stay up to date with local issues and discussions.

If you have any questions, concerns, or matters you would like the Community Council to consider, please contact:

- Our admin at: [email.sfccc@aol.com](mailto:email.sfccc@aol.com)
- Our Chair at: [sfcc.chair@gmail.com](mailto:sfcc.chair@gmail.com)

Your views are important, and we welcome engagement from across the community. With thanks to ongoing funding from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust.



## STRATHERRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL



It has been a busy period in the life of Stratherrick Primary School since the last update. Last term we have had our Christmas Play (Lights, Camel, Action), our Sleepover, we sold some craft wares at the Table Top Sale in Gorthleck Hall, we went to see the Panto at Eden Court (Oh Yes We Did), and we also had some really fun Christmas Parties.

Links continue to grow between the school and Boleskine Community Care. Last term we ventured down to the hub to play some games. This term we have invited them up to school to partake in some Comic Relief shenanigans! We can't wait to see them here!

This term we also went to the Newton Rooms in Inverness to take part in some

science lessons relating to work in school cantered around energy. The P5-7 pupils went to Kilchuimen Academy to experience some Indoor Curling workshops, the pupils were as cool as ice!

We have also taken part in the Inverness Music Festival – P1-3 singing the song "Earth, Sea and Sky" and Primary 4-7 singing "River Song". We are very lucky to have such talented youngsters! We are also very lucky to have funding for these trips/activities provided by the trust via our Parent Council – so thank you very much for all your help.

Until next time,  
Stratherrick Primary School



## STRATHERRICK PRIMARY & NURSERY PARENT COUNCIL



Stratherrick Primary and Nursery Parent Council continue to support the pupils at school in a variety of ways.

The Library project, that the Parent Council helped to set up and deliver fortnightly Library sessions for the pupils, continues to be a huge success.

Children love the opportunity to take a book home, share their reading skills and it has definitely fostered a love of reading for enjoyment. The Nursery children are delighted to have a brand new, huge, sandpit in their playground to explore and play in. Thank you to the community effort in obtaining and recycling old tyres for this great new resource. The Parent Council has also funded singing lessons for pupils across all classes and we wish them lots of luck in their upcoming performances at the Inverness Music Festival. Our Primary 7's are very much looking forward to their P7 Residential Trip to Loch Insh Outdoor Centre, and as transition events continue to take place in their lead up to Secondary school, we wish them all the best fun (and weather) for their up-coming trip.

The Parent Council looks forward to helping fund and deliver more learning and extra-curricular opportunities for all of the pupils in Nursery and Primary School. Please help to support us at any future fundraising events.

# F.I.R.A

Friends of Inverness  
Royal Academy

## FRIENDS OF INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY ARTICLE

FIRA is the local youth group that is open to all young people from the area that attend any school from P7 to S6. We run a youth club and do activities with the young people.

Next Youth club - Wednesday 1st April at the Wildside Centre, 7pm - 8.30pm. We will be doing Easter crafts and there may be some chocolate eggs!

If you don't receive FIRA emails already and would like to, please email [contact@fira.aol.com](mailto:contact@fira.aol.com)

Going forward, if the group is to continue, we need people to be part of the committee so please get in touch. We will be arranging a meeting in the near future to discuss ideas and the future of the group.

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP**  
every Thursday 9.30-11.30AM  
Wildside Centre Whitebridge  
**FREE ENTRY**

A friendly, informal baby & toddler group with toys, play and a chance for grown-ups to chat over a cuppa. All welcome!

**Bookbug**  
Bookbug will be joining us for monthly visits starting **April 2nd!** Stories, songs and fun for little ones - definitely not one to miss!

# STAYING CONNECTED ACROSS THE STRATH

There are many ways to keep up to date with what's happening throughout the Stratherrick & Foyers area, and we're always working to make sure everyone feels informed and involved.

One of the easiest ways to stay connected is through the SFCT website: [www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk](http://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk). Members of the Trust team post weekly updates in the News section and across our project pages, so you can follow progress and see what's new. The website is also home to helpful contact numbers, a directory of local businesses, and our Community Calendar, which is packed with dates for events, classes and activities taking place across the area.

We also send out a weekly members' email every Wednesday to those signed up to our mailing list. This is a great way to receive local news straight to your inbox. If you would like to be added, simply email Kirsteen, our Administrator, at [admin@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@sfctrust.org.uk).

Of course, it's not only online where you can find out what's going on, as this publication shows! Across the Stratherrick & Foyers area you'll find a number of community noticeboards, regularly updated with local events, classes and important updates. We aim to refresh these weekly. Each noticeboard also includes a Suggestion Box, giving you the opportunity to share ideas, feedback and comments. These are checked whenever the boards are updated, so please do make use of them.

If you didn't know, the Trust is based at the Wildside Centre in Whitebridge. If you'd like to chat with the team, please feel free to pop by and say hello. Our door is always open and the centre is usually staffed Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm (ish!). As a small and dedicated team, many of us work part-time and balance appointments and other commitments, but we will always do our best to help.

If you would like an event shared, added to the Community Calendar, need help with artwork, or simply want to run an idea past us, please email [marketingofficer@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:marketingofficer@sfctrust.org.uk).



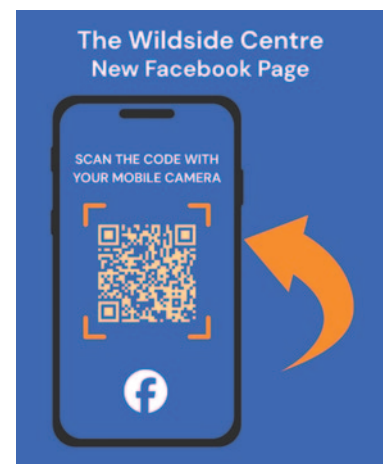
We look forward to hearing from you and keeping our community connected this Spring.

Talking about keeping connected - We are currently exploring the option of updating our website. While the site is updated most days of the week, its current limitations mean it takes a significant amount of staff time to manage and keep all pages up to date.

Our aim is to bring the website to life and modernise it so that it better reflects the Trust today. We hope to design the new site in-house, bringing together the skills and ideas of team members across the organisation to create something that truly represents who we are and what we do.

As part of this process, we will also be seeking ideas, thoughts and suggestions from our community about features or content you would like to see included on the new site. We will be asking for your views in due course and look forward to hearing your feedback.

As plans develop and progress is made, we will keep members informed with further updates.



A vertical poster for 'THE WILDSIDE CENTRE'. The top half has a purple background with the text 'THE WILDSIDE CENTRE' in large, bold, white letters. Below this is a photo of the Wildside Centre building. The bottom half has a green background with the text 'DROP IN HOURS' in large, bold, white letters, followed by 'MON-FRI 9.00AM-12PM' and 'COME IN AND SEE US' in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom, it says 'CALL 07949 916947 IF URGENT' in white letters. On the right side, there is a small illustration of a steaming cup of coffee. The text 'Got an idea? Want to get involved or setup a group? Share your thoughts on Trust Projects' is written in a smaller font above the coffee cup.



## THE WILDSIDE CENTRE

Wildside Centre Updates: Keeping Community Space Affordable and Sustainable

SFCT are pleased to share some important updates about the Wildside Centre. Our aim is simple: to keep this community space accessible, affordable, and sustainable for everyone.

### REVISED HIRE RATES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Following a review, hire costs at the Wildside Centre have been updated to align with other local community venues while remaining as affordable as possible for residents and small local businesses. They are as follows -

#### Community-Open Activities

The Centre will continue to be free of charge for activities that are open and accessible to the wider community, such as toddler groups or other free public sessions.

Maintaining free access for community-open activities remains a core commitment.

**Private Community Hire** **£7.50 per hour**  
(for all members of the local community)

- This rate applies regardless of Trust membership status
- Kitchen use is free of charge

**Local Business Hire** **£15 per hour**  
(for activities such as exercise, wellbeing, or similar classes)

- A kitchen charge may apply where appropriate and will be agreed in advance

**Corporate / Commercial Hire** **£30 per hour**

- A kitchen charge may apply where appropriate and will be agreed in advance

How to book: [www.hallbookingonline.com/wildside/](http://www.hallbookingonline.com/wildside/)



#### Investing in a Greener Future

We are also delighted to announce a major sustainability improvement at the Wildside Centre. The building is being fitted with solar PV panels and battery storage, which will:

- Reduce the Centre's carbon footprint
- Lower ongoing energy and running costs
- Improve long-term financial sustainability

This project has been made possible thanks to an 80% grant from Local Energy Scotland through its Community and Renewable Energy Scheme. We are extremely grateful for this support.

We look forward to sharing the results of our energy savings as the system becomes operational. Improvements like this are a key part of our wider work to make the Trust's buildings more sustainable and to help ensure we can continue to offer free use of the Wildside Centre for community-open activities.

#### A Space for Everyone

The Wildside Centre belongs to the community, and these changes are designed to balance affordability, accessibility, and long-term sustainability. We encourage local groups, residents, and businesses to make use of this valuable space.

## FOYERS BAY

Since the last newsletter, several new sights have appeared in the Bay thanks to our last workday on December 6th.

We thought most attention would be on the saplings donated by the Woodland Trust. The native tree sapling mix was planted out and surrounded in donated sheep fleece. This provides Nitrogen for the saplings, acts as a cloche against frost, and helps deter deer. When grown, the hedge will provide protection and privacy, as well as a biodiversity shelter.

What caught a few eyes were the slipway markers. Popped out as far as possible on the workday, they should be placed at their correct distance further from the shore when possible. A safety feature, providing guidance to slipway users as they enter and leave the water.

The fenceline was cleared after the storms last year too, to protect the properties and users.

Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers.

Inside the secure boat storage is the welfare unit cabin. Members with boat storage access will have access to this as part of membership. It, and an external electrical bollard, now has live electricity. You can now work on your boat and have a warm brew when needed. Unfortunately, it is not currently plumbed, so bring your own water for the water urn.

Currently the steering group is working on an amendment to the slipway plans, hoping to submit it in time to also keep the current planning permission.

You need not be a slipway user to join the steering group or Foyers Bay, Foyers Bay is a tiered system, and the steering group welcomes voices of other Bay users. Wild-swimmers, paddleboarders, kayakers etc wanted too!

To join the steering group, please e-mail either admin or Maire, at [maire-dir@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:maire-dir@sfctrust.org.uk).

To become a member of Foyers Bay, please contact Kirsteen by e-mailing [admin@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@sfctrust.org.uk).

Maire Brown.

## OTHER HISTORICAL PROJECTS:

All other historical projects such as Corkscrew Road and Riverside Field are being reviewed with the aim of establishing an exact scope, design and budget that can then be offered to the Board of Directors during their meeting in the month of May. Further updates will only be available afterwards.

The aim for this year is to close out historic projects that have been ongoing for a long time and clear the way for new ventures going forward. We are of course incredibly budget conscious this year due to the large expenditure already allocated to other external community projects.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone in the community for their continued interest, patience and support while these projects move forward. Community engagement and feedback remain extremely important to us, and we look forward to sharing more updates as progress continues.



## ERROGIE

Completing this project constitutes the main priority for SFCT at the moment, with works having started on 9 March.

We aim to open the building to public use in the first week of May. The current works involve improvements to access and welfare facilities such as new toilets and a kitchenette, as well as improved access and parking.

By completing these works, we will finally be in a position where the building will be compliant with regulations for use as a public building.

Weekly updates will be given to the local community steering group along the way.

# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN – 2026 REFRESH

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Trust has commissioned Nick Wright, the original author of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Action Plan, to under a refresh of the Plan which was prepared by the local community in 2021 in order to guide community action in the area covered by the Community Council and Community Trust, including how to make best use of future “community benefit” money deriving from renewable power generation in the area. It was followed by our Local Place Plan registered in 2023, the first in the Highlands, which shows how the actions in the Community Action Plan will land on the ground across our community.

Now, five years on, there is much positive news to report on implementation of the Community Action Plan, including:

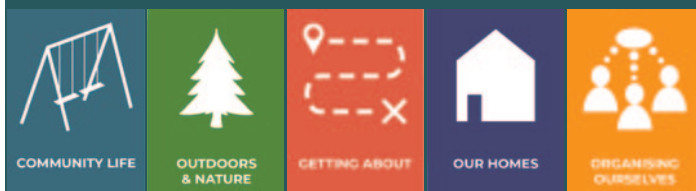
- Access to Loch Ness and storage created at Foyers Bay
- New family homes built in Inverfarigaig
- More pupils in school
- Scottish Land Fund application to purchase Foyers Stores for the community
- Inverfarigaig forest classroom and toilets opened
- Greater engagement from residents in Torness
- Paths and recreation space in the grounds of the Wildside Centre
- Walk the Walk campaign, including an online guide to 22 local walks
- Maintenance work on key sections of the South Loch Ness Trail
- New community minibus on order
- Updated community grant system, including new grants for driving lessons

Despite much effort, delivery of other objectives in the Plan has not always been as envisaged. For example: childcare, community transport, new homes in other villages, community hubs, leisure facilities and employment growth.

Now that five years have passed since the Community Action Plan was prepared, the time is right for a review – as was suggested in the original Plan.

## 2. REFRESHING THE PLAN

The 2021 Community Action Plan’s vision and action areas proposed sustaining our environment, economy and community, focussing on five specific action areas:



Those action areas were tested through community engagement on our Local Place Plan more recently in 2023 and proved robust. Whilst we should of course take the opportunity to check the continued relevance of the vision and action areas, fundamental change seems unlikely. A review therefore feels more appropriate than starting with a blank canvas; hence the suggestion of “refreshing” the Community Action Plan.

A “Refresh” of the Plan offers an opportunity for the community to discuss:

1. Which specific actions from the original Plan have been completed? Which are stalling, and why?
2. Which actions need to change or be delivered differently? What new actions might be needed?
3. How could we work with other communities facing similar issues? For example to share experience, gain inspiration and potentially join forces if economies of scale might improve deliverability?
4. How can the Community Trust’s resources and budget be used to maximise positive community impact?
5. Could the plan be developed into a strategic 5 year business plan with costed projects, at least in outline?

## 3. APPROACH

Our starting point is that the Refresh must be done with the local community – meaning that anybody who wants to be involved must be given that opportunity. The role of the Community Trust will be to instigate and promote the Refresh, rather than to direct what comes out of it.

The community-led approach to the Refresh will be characterised as an opportunity to:

- Check in and update the existing Plan – a relatively light touch process, in comparison to the more comprehensive community engagement for the 2021 Plan.

- Share progress on what the community has achieved since the Plan was published – encompassing achievements and challenges as described above.
- Reach residents who are less engaged or active in the community – requiring careful thought about messaging, reaching people, and ways for them to engage.

The Refresh will commence in March ‘26 and the updated Community Action Plan will be published in October ‘26.

# GRANTS

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY: SFCT GRANT SCHEME

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust are proud to continue supporting individuals, community groups and local organisations through our grants programme. Our funding is designed to strengthen communities, improve wellbeing, and provide practical support where it is needed most.

AT PRESENT, SFCT OFFERS THE FOLLOWING GRANTS:

### Student Grant

- One application per year
- Maximum value of £500

### Sporting and Excellence Grant

- Two applications per year
- Maximum value of £250 each

### Driving and Motorcycle Lessons Grant

- One application per applicant
- Maximum value of £300

### Large Constituted Group grants

- One application per year
- For more than £25,000

### Constituted Groups for Community Community Benefit

- Two applications per year
- Up to £25,000

### Non-Constituted Groups / Individuals for Community Benefit

- One application per year
- Maximum value of £1,000

## 2026 GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES & BOARD DATES:

### Grant Application Closing Dates:

- 21 June 2026
- 21 September 2026

### Grant Board Meeting Dates:

- 5 August 2026
- 4 November 2026

**Applicants are encouraged to submit their forms well in advance of the closing dates to allow time for any additional information that may be required and to get in touch if any help is needed.**

## GRANT INFORMATION SESSIONS

To make the application process as clear and accessible as possible, SFCT will be running further Grant Information Sessions over the coming months. These sessions will cover:

- How to apply for an SFCT grant
- What information you need to provide
- How to report on a grant if you have already received funding
- Common mistakes to avoid

There will also be an opportunity for individuals and groups to raise any issues or challenges they have experienced when applying for SFCT funding. We welcome honest feedback to help us improve our processes and ensure the funding reaches those who need it most.

## LOOKING AT MATCH FUNDING

Following the recent large grant award to BCC to support the purchase of the shop — a project we know was very much wanted and supported by the community — available funds are currently more limited.

Given this increased demand on SFCT funding, we encourage applicants to consider attending the grant information session where we can also discuss match funding which can strengthen applications with external funders.

Our information sessions will include guidance on:

- What match funding means in practice
- How to identify potential funding partners and assist groups with that
- How to structure your application when combining funding sources
- Why match funding can strengthen your application

With increasing pressure on available funds, exploring match funding options can improve your chances of success and help us support more projects across our communities.

We will advertise dates when decided and contact groups to invite them. If you are considering applying or are in receipt of funding, we encourage you to attend a session, ask questions, and start planning early. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in our communities.

If you require any assistance with grant funding right now, please get in touch with our Funding and Development Officer, Sharon at [funding@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:funding@sfctrust.org.uk)

## CASE STUDY – FROM IDEA TO GROWING COMMUNITY GROUP

Last year, local resident, Kathleen Farnham attended one of SFCT's grant information sessions to find out more about funding opportunities available locally. With support and guidance from Sharon, our Fundraising and Development Officer, Kathleen initially got assistance to apply for a Community Council Micro Grant and was awarded £400 to help get her project started.

Following that success, Kathleen went on to apply for a Non-Constituted Community Benefit Grant from SFCT and secured a further £1,000 to build on the project's early momentum.

Now, with continued support from SFCT staff, Kathleen is receiving assistance to formally set up a constituted group. This next step will allow her and a growing group of enthusiastic and creative community members to access larger grants from SFCT as well as funding from other third-party funders.

Kathleen's journey demonstrates how starting small, asking questions and seeking advice can lead to significant opportunities for growth and long-term sustainability.

*"I joined this lovely community with my husband about 4 years ago and became involved as a volunteer at the BCC hub initially to help with garden and then with the art group. People were very generous with their time and providing materials for some of our art classes. However, there seemed to be no funding available to pay for tutors or workshops, until Sharon advertised a SFCT grant information session. I have to admit to being rather anxious about applying for first grant and did wonder what I was taking on.*

*Sharon was extremely helpful and supportive with my application, initially for a smaller grant in 2025 from the SFCC and the subsequent larger grant from SFCT. The grant funding was used to subsidise several art and craft workshops. This has attracted many new members to our local art group, which has grown from 4 to an amazing 25.*

*We have a lovely active group, and new members are always welcome, just come and have some fun. No previous art experience necessary.*

*The next logical step for the club was to think about forming a constituted group, which will allow us to apply for larger grants and again Sharon is helping us in this process.*

*On behalf the art group I would like to pass on a huge thank you and our appreciation to Sharon, the SFCC and SFCT for their ongoing support and funding."*

Kathleen



# HEALTH & WELLBEING

Last year, following a well-attended community meeting, Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust carried out a Health and Wellbeing Survey to understand what local people would like to see available in the area.

We received 36 responses, and the message was clear: there is strong interest in improving access to local opportunities that support both physical health and overall wellbeing.

## What the Survey Told Us

The most popular request was for an indoor gym, with 75% of respondents saying they would use one if it were available locally. There was also strong interest in:

- Strength and resistance classes (such as kettlebells or circuits)
- Cardio and fitness sessions
- Healthy eating and weight management support
- A community health café
- Walking and running groups

Alongside specific facilities, an important theme emerged. Many people told us they would prefer small-scale local options rather than having to travel regularly to Inverness. The value of local connection and social interaction came through strongly.

## Early Actions Already Underway

Some of the ideas from the survey can be delivered quickly, and work has already started.

A local running group is now up and running (see article below)

We are exploring guided community walks

Opportunities are being considered for community-led fitness classes in local venues

Plans are being developed to trial minibus trips to nearby gym facilities, including Fort Augustus

We will also be looking at seasonal or pop-up activities, such as outdoor sessions and healthy living workshops, to test demand.

## Looking Ahead – Budget Planning for 2026/27

Alongside developing local options, the Trust is now exploring the idea of subsidised gym membership as a potential option for the 2026/27 budget.

This would help residents access existing leisure facilities and specialist classes (for example, programmes supporting long-term health conditions), while keeping costs affordable. As this concept did not emerge directly from the survey, further community engagement will take place before any decisions are made.

## Longer-Term Plans

Some of the priorities identified will take more time and funding to develop. These include:

Exploring the feasibility of a small community gym space as a pilot to gauge local demand

Beginning discussions on Phase One improvements at Foyers Field, including a perimeter path for walking and running

Developing a pop-up or permanent community health café

Seeking funding and partnerships to support future wellbeing initiatives

Any small-scale local gym provision would be intended as a trial to measure usage and demand, helping to build evidence for future investment. In the longer term, this information could support plans for a purpose-built facility and help attract external funding.

## Have Your Say

The survey remains open, and we would particularly like to hear from younger residents and families to ensure future plans reflect the whole community

The Health and Wellbeing work is about building a range of options — both local and through partnerships — to support healthier, more connected lives across Stratherrick and Foyers.

If you would like to get involved, have skills you could offer, or want to share your views, please get in touch with the Trust



# SOCIAL RUNNING GROUP

Following a recent Health & Wellbeing meeting hosted by Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust, a new social running group has taken off - and we're delighted to say it's already gathering pace!

The group was formed to bring together local folk who enjoy getting out for a run, whatever their pace or experience. It's all

about fresh air, friendly faces, and a bit of motivation to keep active through the seasons. There's no pressure and no set training plan - just an informal, supportive group of like-minded people.

Meet-ups are arranged on an ad hoc basis, mostly at weekends, making it easy to fit around busy lives. We have a friendly WhatsApp group where members can suggest runs, share plans, and keep in touch - perfect for coordinating last-minute outings or finding a running buddy.

Recently, some of the group enjoyed a trip to Torvean Park for parkrun - a great morning out and a brilliant community atmosphere. A big thank you to SFCT for the use of the community minibus, which made the trip even more enjoyable.

If you'd like to join us - whether you're a seasoned runner or just starting out — you'd be very welcome. Simply join our WhatsApp group using the link below and come along to the next run:

[https://chat.whatsapp.com/lq8Uzj565qrBs36ga5Mg0J?mode=gi\\_t](https://chat.whatsapp.com/lq8Uzj565qrBs36ga5Mg0J?mode=gi_t)

We look forward to running with you!

# CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF ALEX SUTHERLAND IN THE OVER-75 CROSS COUNTRY CATEGORY

2nd for the Scottish 75 plus team and team bronze medal.

Alex shares his story from running last year – “An epic journey on the bus to Glasgow when the M9 was blocked by a lorry shedding its load of chickens then diverted onto back roads around Stirling which were flooded and congested and the bus had to stop when the driver’s hours ran out. The next day on the team bus to Leeds was

better! The 6K course which took 34.35 was hilly and the ground super saturated with last minute alterations to avoid too many falls in very muddy conditions.

After everyone had cleaned up, I attended an enjoyable dinner and prize giving.”

Alex’s great achievement has also been highlighted in parliament thanks to recognition from local MSP Emma Roddick – (SNP) “The Parliament congratulates Alex Sutherland on his continued success in cross country running; notes in particular his outstanding performance at the British Masters Home International Cross Country Race in Belfast, where he placed third overall and was first for Scotland in the 75 to 79 age category; recognises his recent achievements in securing both Scottish and UK cross country Gold medals”.

Congratulations Alex from all here at Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust



## Explore our local area

WALK  
THE  
WALK



*Using the camera on your smart device, scan this code to view a selection of local walks.*

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/walk-the-walks/>

Photo by Robbie Burn

# SCOTSHAVEN COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

Gorthleck , Inverness. IV2 6YP

A HOLISTIC AND NATURAL APPROACH TO HEALING MIND,  
BODY & SOUL

"Happiness is the new rich. Inner peace is the new success.  
Health is the new wealth. Kindness is the new cool"

*Syed Balkhi*

## The benefits of being kind in an unkind world

In yogic philosophy there are guide lines to living a meaningful life known as 'The 8 limbs of yoga'. These eight limbs can be seen as steps or rungs on a ladder, each step deepening the yogic practice.

They are a little like a road map guiding us towards Samadhi, often thought of as bliss or enlightenment.

The first of these limbs is the Yamas which can be thought of as moral vows and observances, they include non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, right use of energy and non-greed. They are universal and apply to everyone and everything. No matter where a person is from, their social status, current life situation or past experience, these five morals apply to them, us, and everyone around us. These Yamas can be thought of as 'restraints or small disciplines we can all practice in order to simply be good people.

Studying these restraints got me to thinking about what an unkind world we now live in and how many simple acts of kindness have



been dropped. We live in a society that encourages us to be greedy, competitive, stressed, anxious, selfish and materialistic, maybe leaving people little time, headspace or energy to show acts of kindness or express empathy!!

When I first came to live in the Highlands from the South of England, the one thing that stood out to me was how often people smiled at you, had time to chat and seemed genuinely interested in you. People were always ready to help anyone in need and there was a strong sense of community that I hadn't experienced since a teenager. As I gradually de-stressed, slowed down and regained some energy, I found myself with more free time to help others and soon realised that the benefit from helping others, was one of the most rewarding emotions and feelings of wellbeing that you could experience. No financial reward could leave me feeling as satisfied as the simple act of kindness and using my energy in a positive and unselfish way.

An act of kindness doesn't have to be a mammoth task, just a simple smile or asking someone how they are can make a huge difference to that person's day. Doing favours for friends, opening doors to let people through and having concerned feelings for people less fortunate can have a positive effect on both the giver and receiver.

## Some of the scientifically proven benefits of being kind are –

Oxytocin is produced which lowers blood pressure, improves heart health, increases self-esteem and optimism.

Energy levels are increased and it helps you feel calmer and less depressed.

Kindness increases lifespan and lessens aches and pains

It gives pleasure – when you are kind to another person, your brains pleasure and reward centres light up as if you were the recipient of the good deed – not the giver. This phenomenon is called the 'helpers high'.

Kindness stimulates the production of serotonin, the feel-good chemical that heals wounds, calms you down and makes you happy.

So maybe we all need to make a little more time to show some kindness, not just for the benefit of others but also for ourselves and the ripple effect that kindness creates.

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind"

If you would like to learn more about yogic philosophy or attend one of our regular yoga classes please get in touch. All abilities are welcome.

Yoga can be very beneficial if you feel lost, sad, alone, stressed or overwhelmed. We are a caring yoga community providing a safe and loving space.

We run the following weekly classes along with one day yoga retreats on the last Sunday of each month. Further details can be found on our website or Facebook page.

Monday – 10am and 7pm • Thursday – 7pm • Fri – 10am  
£7.50 per class or £24 for a 4-week block

If you are interested in joining our friendly and welcoming Scotshaven community or would like to know more about meditation, yoga classes or any of our complementary therapies, please don't hesitate to contact either Gill or Alannah on 07808 803445/07415 763836

or email [scotshaven.therapies@btinternet.com](mailto:scotshaven.therapies@btinternet.com)  
[www.scotshavenwellbeing.com](http://www.scotshavenwellbeing.com)





## THE PIER CAFE – SPRING UPDATE

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring appear, we're so excited to be reopening The Pier Cafe for the season!

After launching our trial last September, we were overwhelmed by the support from our local community and visitors. The encouragement and kindness we received meant so much to us as young new business owners, and has given us the confidence heading into our first full season.

Over the winter, there have been improvements made to our cafe space. It has been refreshed and reorganised to create a cleaner, brighter and more welcoming setting for both locals and visitors to enjoy. We want The Pier Cafe to feel like a unique spot by the water — somewhere you can relax, take in the view and enjoy a great coffee.

This season, we are aiming to open 6 days a week serving highland roast coffee, hearty home baking, fresh paninis and delicious ice cream — all served with what we believe is one of the best views in Scotland. Looking ahead, there are also plans to continue developing the cafe space over time, with a long term goal to expand and improve facilities.

We can't wait to welcome you back this spring for the 'Pier-fect coffee'.

To keep up to date with opening times, menu updates and seasonal news, follow us on Facebook or Instagram at The Pier Cafe – Loch Ness. See you on the Pier!

The Pier Cafe

# Family Ceilidh

COME ALONG WITH THE FAMILY AND LEARN SOME  
SCOTTISH DANCING , INCLUDING THE GAY GORDON'S,  
VIRGINIA REEL, CIRCASSIAN CIRCLE PLUS MORE FUN  
DANCES WITH RSCDS DANCE TEACHER KATE MCARDLE

REFRESHMENTS  
INCLUDED

**STRATHERRICK HALL**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2-4PM**

**£2**

**NO PARTNER NEEDED, NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED AS  
ALL DANCES WILL BE WALKED THROUGH**

**Funded and supported by Stratherrick and Foyers  
Community Trust Limited**



## CUSTARD CREAMS

This recipe will make around 14 -15 completed custard creams.

### INGREDIENTS

170g Unsalted butter (Margarine can be substituted, or use half & half)

55g Icing sugar

170g Self Raising flour

55g Custard powder

### FILLING

50g Unsalted butter (room temperature)

100g Icing sugar

Vanilla essence to flavour (optional)

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 180C, Fan oven 160C,  
Gas mark 4

Line 2 large baking trays with greaseproof paper or grease trays

Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy

Gradually add flour & custard powder a bit at a time until mixture forms a soft paste.

Divide mixture into small balls, (I tend to make them around 16 - 18g each to ensure even sizes)

Place on tray, ensuring they are well spaced, with the heel of your hand gently flatten the mixture, use a fork to lightly score the tops

Bake for 10-12mins, until lightly golden in colour and dry on top

Remove from tray and cool on a rack.

Make the filling by mixing the icing sugar and butter together, allow to chill slightly.

Spread the buttercream onto the biscuits and sandwich together, finish with a light dusting of icing sugar.

Enjoy!



Eileen Martin

## CAMERONS TEA ROOM

At Cameron's, we pride ourselves on offering quality, locally sourced food in a warm and welcoming setting.

Enjoy daily fresh home baking alongside our fabulous breakfasts, prepared using carefully selected local ingredients.

Our menu also features delicious homemade soups and tasty lunches, perfect for a relaxed catch-up or quick bite.

We stock fresh bread from Bakery Inverness, available both in the tearoom and our farm shop, where you'll also find our own Glenlia Farm beef, venison, and fresh eggs — bringing true field-to-fork produce direct to you.

Alongside this, we offer a lovely selection of local vegetables, jams, cheeses, biscuits, and sweet treats, making our shop a perfect stop for something special.

We also provide farm visit experiences, giving you the chance to meet our

beautiful Highland cows. Visitors can enjoy feeding, grooming, and walking experiences, with various packages available, including options that feature our popular afternoon teas.

You couldn't get more locally sourced food. We look forward to welcoming you.

Opening hours 10-3  
Wednesday- Sunday  
7 days June- September

We also offer outside catering also rental and exclusive use of the tearoom and grounds for private events.  
[Cameronstearoom@gmail.com](mailto:Cameronstearoom@gmail.com)  
01456486572



## FARM VISITS AT CAMERON'S TEAROOM

Experience the charm of Glenlia Farm up close! Meet our beautiful Highland cows and enjoy hands-on activities:

- Feeding
- Grooming
- Walking with the cows

Various packages available, including options with our delicious afternoon teas. Perfect for anyone wanting a true taste of farm life.

Visit us Cameron's Tearoom Facebook page or Instagram

Email: [Cameronstearoom@gmail.com](mailto:Cameronstearoom@gmail.com)

Call Morag on 01456486572

Come and enjoy a memorable day surrounded by nature, fresh air, and our beautiful Besties on Glenlia farm!

Perfect for any of local holiday lets in the area to recommend to their visitors.



## BEASTIE BOATS

Hello from Beastie Boats!

Beastie Boats have been operating RIB rides and private charters from Foyers Pier since 2019.

Over the years, we have steadily built up the business and improved the space around Foyers Pier to make it more welcoming for members of the public to visit, and last Autumn The Pier Cafe added a new dynamic to the area, offering refreshments to both locals and guests at the pier.

This Winter, we have been working hard on tidying up the area around the Pier - we hope you agree it's looking fabulous! Feel free to pop down for a look and a chat.

Our RIBs, The Beastie and The Wee Beastie, will be back in the water this month, and our RIB rides will be operational from the 1st April, so do come and join us for your tour of Loch Ness! You can book your trip by visiting [www.beastieboats.com](http://www.beastieboats.com) or by scanning the QR code, and please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with all our news!

Malcolm and the Beastie Boats team.





  
**FOYERS LODGE**  
 — EST 1863 —  
**EVENING MEALS**  
 —————  
 2 COURSE & 3 COURSE  
 DINNERS AVAILABLE  
*Our kitchen is now open!*  
 —————  
 RESERVATIONS ONLY  
 Please call **01456 486351**  
 or email  
[reservations@foyerslodge.co.uk](mailto:reservations@foyerslodge.co.uk)



## FOYERS LODGE OFFICIALLY OPENS UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

A new chapter has begun on the shores of Loch Ness as Foyers Lodge is now officially open under new ownership.

Overlooking the iconic waters of Loch Ness and surrounded by Highland woodland, the lodge has welcomed travellers since 1863 and remains one of the area's most picturesque destinations. With its panoramic views, elegant interiors and relaxed atmosphere, Foyers Lodge continues its proud tradition of Highland hospitality — now with renewed energy and long-term vision.

Owner Reita Lebrock says the goal is simple: to honour the lodge's heritage while ensuring it thrives for generations to come.

"Foyers Lodge is incredibly special. We want to protect its history and reputation while building something sustainable for

the future. Our commitment is to quality, warmth and genuine Highland hospitality."

In a remarkably short space of time, the lodge has recruited what Reita describes as "an incredible team" — bringing together hospitality professionals who share a passion for service, food and the Highlands.

"We are so proud of the team we've built already. Their energy and professionalism have allowed us to open quickly and confidently. We are continuing to recruit so we can expand our offering and welcome even more guests."

Foyers Lodge will be open all year round, providing stable, long-term employment opportunities within the local community. The team is still recruiting for a number of roles, and local applicants are encouraged to send their CV to [info@foyerslodge.co.uk](mailto:info@foyerslodge.co.uk).

As staffing expands, the lodge plans to introduce a lunch menu, opening its doors more regularly to the local community as well as tourists exploring Loch Ness and the surrounding Highlands.

Looking ahead, the owners also plan to enhance the lodge's wellness offering. Proposals include developing a dedicated wellbeing room overlooking the loch, where guests can enjoy experiences such as yoga sessions, guided relaxation and small group workshops in a truly tranquil setting.

There are also plans to introduce an outdoor sauna and cold plunge pool, allowing guests to embrace the growing popularity of Nordic-style thermal experiences while taking in uninterrupted views across Loch Ness. The aim is to create a peaceful space where visitors can reconnect with nature, recharge and experience the Highlands in a new way.

The lodge continues to operate as a boutique hotel, offering seven beautifully appointed en-suite bedrooms, refined dining experiences, and a welcoming bar featuring Highland whiskies, carefully selected wines and locally sourced produce.

While Foyers Lodge will remain first and foremost a hotel, it will also host a limited number of select wellbeing and retreat weekends during quieter periods, complementing its core hospitality offering without disrupting peak tourism seasons.

With year-round opening, a growing team, future wellness plans and a strong commitment to local employment and community engagement, Foyers Lodge is once again ready to welcome both visitors and neighbours alike.



## WHITEBRIDGE HOTEL

Just a quick update from us here at the Whitebridge Hotel. With the festive season behind us and a new season ahead, we wanted to take the time to thank the community for such a warm and inviting welcome! We are deeply humbled at the reception we have received these past months as well as

all the wishes for success. We've met a lot of wonderful people and hope there will be more to come! Stepping out and trying to chase our dreams has been quite an overwhelming experience, and we know we still have room to grow; but the support has been a big motivator to keep pushing forward and do The Whitebridge Hotel, a beloved piece of this amazing community, justice. We are really enjoying exploring the area with our dog dash (we are not biased, but it is one of the

most beautiful places in Scotland). So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you all for your support.

We've been working hard while we have been closed to get ready for re-opening. We will be announcing some exciting plans in the near future as they are coming together, so stay tuned. We hope to see you at the bar when we open.

Connor & Sabrina Mappin





# CEO'S REPORT

With the sun shining and days getting longer it looks like the cold winter is now almost over. Despite what the weather threw at us, the last few months have been an exceptionally busy time for the Trust, as we were almost completely focussed on supporting the BCC application for the acquisition of the Foyers Stores and Cafe and ensuring due diligence was performed. This has involved a great deal of effort from the staff and Board members in reviewing the Business Plan, the funding application and ensuring our funders were aware of the application and could meet the tight timescales. I would like to thank them all for their support and contributions which enable the Trust to approve the grant application on 4th February, and we await confirmation of the prepayment conditions.

As the acquisition process progresses, we continue to offer BCC our support and assistance in whatever way we can to ensure a smooth completion to this first step in developing a successful and important community asset.

Thankfully, we did have time to organise a few community events for Bonfire Night and the festive period. The 2025 Bonfire Night was an enjoyable success, and the inclusion of the Pier Cafe mobile cafe was a real bonus to the evening. I would like to thank Neil Kirkland and Alex Coombs and all the many volunteers who made the night a success.

In addition, we held two events at the Wildside Centre, A Pie, A Pint and A Song and the Christmas Ceilidh which, based on the feedback we have received, were highly successful. The

ceilidh was the culmination of an evening with Santa's sleigh visiting the children across the communities and Christmas carols at the Centre.

As a bonus, we also held a Pie, a Pint and an oddly-shaped balls to mark the Six Nations 'clash' between Scotland and England. The deafening roar from the Scottish contingent at the final whistle could probably be heard in Foyers!

All these events would not have happened without the support and assistance from many volunteers, our staff and Board members and I thank you all for making them successful community events.

Unfortunately, after 4 ½ years' service for the Trust, our Project Coordinator Caroline Tucker left to take up a position at Beastie Boats, Foyers. I would like to thank her for invaluable contribution and wish her all the best on her new adventure. Fortunately, we were able to recruit a replacement quickly and I would like to welcome Sorin Bogdan who brings both project skills and construction experience to our team. He is already active on completing the Errogie Church Phase 1B building works, speaking to the community groups in Inverfarigaig and coordinating the installation of solar panels at the Wildside Centre.

It should not be forgotten that, during this time, we have also continued to fulfil our core requirement of distributing grants to community members and

groups. The following table summarises the number and amount of grants we have distributed since January '25 to end February '26.

I am looking forward to the Spring and Summer as we, hopefully, complete some of the long running projects and prepare new projects to include in our plans for the next financial year. We have been working hard, in the background, to establish a project cycle process and an evaluation process the Board can use to prioritise proposed projects.

In addition, we have engaged Nick Wright from Nick Wright planning to revisit our Community Action Plan to ensure what the community identified in 2021 as their priorities still align to our community's needs.

As always, I am at the Wildside Centre most days of the week and am happy to make time to discuss any issues or suggestions you have and whether the Trust can assist you.

Jewels Lang  
CEO, SFCT

| GRANT TYPE                                              | NUMBER AWARDED | AMOUNT AWARDED     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| STUDENT                                                 | 28             | £11,000.00         |
| DRIVING/MOTORCYCLE LESSONS                              | 6              | £1,800.00          |
| INDIVIDUAL SPORTING/EXCELLENCE                          | 2              | £439.00            |
| NON-CONSTITUTED GROUP/INDIVIDUALS FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT | 5              | £4,921.35          |
| CONSTITUTED GROUPS FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT                | 9              | £51,050.55         |
| LARGE GROUPS                                            | 1              | £180,000.00        |
| WELCOME GRANTS                                          | 2              | £1,000.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                            | <b>53</b>      | <b>£250,210.90</b> |

# DIRECTORY 2026

CAMERONS TEA ROOM AND FARM SHOP  
T: 01456 486572

CALUM MARTIN PRODUCTION SERVICES  
E: [info@cmpsonline.net](mailto:info@cmpsonline.net) W: [cmpsonline.net/](http://cmpsonline.net/)

FOYERS HOUSE AND THE WEE DRAM  
W: [foyershouse-lochness.com/mobile/](http://foyershouse-lochness.com/mobile/)

FOYERS STORES AND POST OFFICE  
T: 01456 486233 W: [foyersstoresandwaterfallcafe.co.uk/](http://foyersstoresandwaterfallcafe.co.uk/)

GILCHRIST BOILER SERVICES  
T: 01463 242441 M: 07753 600399  
E: [gilchristboilerservices@gmail.com](mailto:gilchristboilerservices@gmail.com)

JOHANNA SCHUSTER – HIGHLAND ACUPUNCTURE  
T: 07795 204 351 M: 07795 204 351  
E: [highlandacupuncture@yahoo.com](mailto:highlandacupuncture@yahoo.com)  
W: [highlandacupuncture.co.uk](http://highlandacupuncture.co.uk)

INSPIRATION-SCOTLAND  
T: 01456 486649  
E: [info@inspiration-scotland.com](mailto:info@inspiration-scotland.com)  
W: [inspiration-scotland.com/en/](http://inspiration-scotland.com/en/)

JULIE HARVEY MUSIC TUITION  
T: 01456 289035 E: [mail@julienessmusic.co.uk](mailto:mail@julienessmusic.co.uk)  
W: [julienessmusic.co.uk/](http://julienessmusic.co.uk/)

LIBRA HOLISTICS  
T: 01456 486562 W: [libraholistics.com/](http://libraholistics.com/)

MEG'S MINDFUL MOVEMENT  
M: 07712 579599 E: [meg.somerville@gmail.com](mailto:meg.somerville@gmail.com)  
W: [megsmindfulmovement.co.uk/](http://megsmindfulmovement.co.uk/)

PETER FRASER VEHICLE SERVICE & REPAIR  
M: 07913 134923 E: [pfservicerepair@icloud.com](mailto:pfservicerepair@icloud.com)

SCOTSHAVEN COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES  
M: 07808803445  
E: [scotshaven.therapies@btinternet.com](mailto:scotshaven.therapies@btinternet.com)

THE WEE HAVEN AT SCOTSHAVEN  
M: 07808 803445  
W: [airbnb.co.uk/rooms/33110398?\\_set\\_bev\\_on\\_...](https://airbnb.co.uk/rooms/33110398?_set_bev_on_...)

TIM LUCAS FOREST MANAGEMENT  
T: 01456 486729 Mob: 07781341894  
E: [tim@timlucasforestmanagement.co.uk](mailto:tim@timlucasforestmanagement.co.uk)

WILDSIDE HIGHLAND LODGES  
T: 01456 486373 E: [info@wildsidehighlandlodges.com](mailto:info@wildsidehighlandlodges.com)  
W: [wildsidelodges.com/](http://wildsidelodges.com/)

WILLIAM FRASER HAULAGE  
M: 07778 927591 E: [williegorthleck@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:williegorthleck@tiscali.co.uk)

*Photo by Robbie Burn*



## Information and Map of Local defibrillators



### What to do if you think someone is having a cardiac arrest -

**Phone 999** immediately and ask for an ambulance if someone stops breathing or loses consciousness.

**CPR:** after you've phoned for an ambulance, the call handler will talk you through how to do chest compressions.

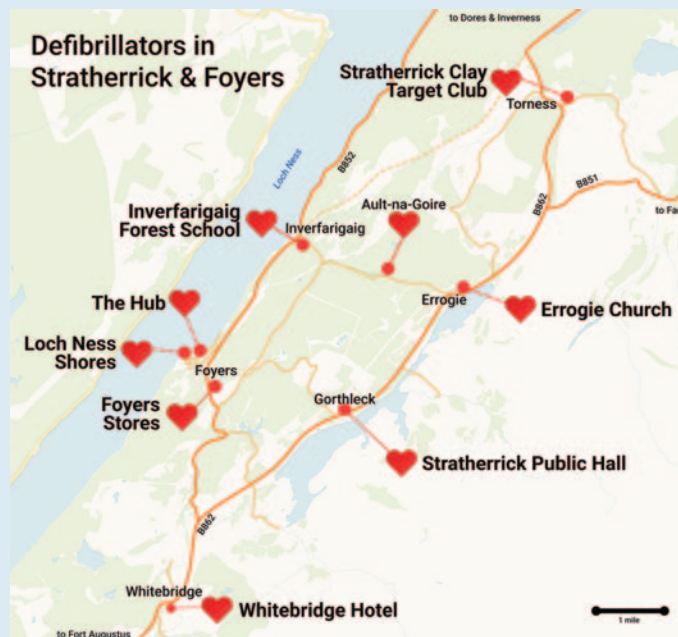
**Get help:** send someone to collect a defibrillator for the patient whilst CPR is continued

#### De-fib Locations

Whitebridge Hotel, Whitebridge, IV2 6UN  
 Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck, IV2 6YR  
 Foyers Stores, Upper Foyers, IV2 6XU  
 Loch Ness Shores Campsite, Lower Foyers, IV2 6YH  
 BCC Hub, Lower Foyers, IV2 6YB  
 Stratherrick Clay Target Club, Torness, IV2 6UB  
 Erroglie Church  
 Ault na Goire  
 Inverfarigaig Forest School

#### What3words location

shuttle.caressing.newsstand  
 keyboards.giant.blacked  
 drives.unpacked.jumbo  
 riches.kindest.initated  
 hippy.tides.tenure  
 estimated.loopholes.extend  
 highly.mergers.grain  
 zips.respects.mountains  
 Coming soon!



### Local Doctors Surgery, Lower Foyers: 01456 486224

If you find a de-fib that needs attention, please email the community council on - email.sfcc@aol.com

Made possible by funding from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust



## MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS... AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

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

