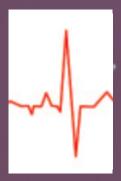
STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

November 2021 Issue Number: 28

PULSE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!





COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED

FESTIVE FIRE SAFETY TIPS



and our local MSP pays us a visit.





CHAIR'S REPORT

This week we launched the final version of our Community Action Plan. We held the launch event at the Wildside Centre and it was great to see so many faces there who came along to support it – thanks to all who made it.

It's an exciting time for our community now that we have this current mandate, which details all of the future projects that you would like to see happening in our area. Now we have to work together to deliver each action area and see all of these wonderful plans become reality. The plan has been split into 5 sections and we hope that you will put your name forward to join an Action Group which interests you, or you have skills in. We want the community to lead the projects, take them forward and see these changes happen.

Nick Wright will facilitate each group, to offer support in their set up and to guide the first steps forward. Each group has been allocated a budget to carry out their first steps, get things off the ground and make it all happen.

Please consider being a volunteer and stepping up to fill this role. There will be professional support available to each group to help move things along and lessen the burden on volunteers' time. The full plan will be posted to all households we have addresses for and is available online, so please read through our Community Action Plan and let us know how you would like to be involved.

Kirsty Balfour Chair, SFCT

TAKE THE PULSE SURVEY RESULTS

For ten days this November, community members were invited to complete the Trust's 'Take the Pulse' survey. The survey was designed to provide a snapshot of local opinion about the Trust and the impact of the work undertaken by volunteers in our area. The survey was designed and conducted with help from the experts at the Scottish Community Development Centre. SCDC has been part of Nick Wright's team working on our Community Action Plan.

The survey was done before the launch of the new Community Action Plan and will be conducted every year. The results of the survey give us a benchmark to start with that we can assess every year. Thank you to the 79 people who took the time to do the survey. It is a good sample size and helps reflect the general view of the local community.

You can download the results (names and individual comments have been removed). Generally things are positive but it is recognised there is room for improvement. It is hoped the Community Action Plan, put together by the community for the community, will help identify where to put our energies and resources, evidence the need of the community and help us unlock further funding to meet all our aspirations.

Nick Wright launched the Community Action Plan on 19th November. It is now available on the website, and copies of the 92 page plan will be distributed to your home over the coming weeks.

Highlights of the 'Take the Pulse' survey include;

- People are seeing improved communications from the Trust (59% strongly agree/agree to 21% disagree/srongly disagree) which is nice to see as a lot of energy has gone into that as an action, with the last magazine being delivered direct to people's doors and the launch of this new website this year!
- That said the Trust can be more transparent about why decisions are made. Don't forget you can join the Trust

and you will get sent minutes of meetings as a member. There is also a frequently asked questions section on the website if you are unsure about anything. We've recently started doing regular updates on projects every Thursday with call to action buttons on each page if you want to get involved too. We are going to review our governance using an outside consultant and see if we can learn some best practice from other communities as part of that review.

- 73% of people strongly agree/agree they know they can get involved with the Trust and 82% know that they can volunteer in the community if they choose to do so which suggests a high level of inclusivity (3 to12% felt they didn't have a good idea or weren't aware they could get involved in the Trust or community groups). Once the Community Action Plan is distributed locally there will be a Skills and Volunteers Audit to see if anyone can offer their time and help to meet any of the outcomes.
- 56% of people strongly agree/agree the Trust is working to make Stratherrick and Foyers a better place for all residents, 24% disagree/strongly disagree. We recently added a Business Directory to the website if you want to employ local people with any jobs you need doing.
- 53% of respondents felt that their families had benefitted directly from the investments of the Trust, whilst 34% believed they had not.

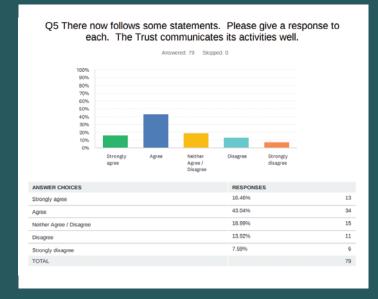
Links to our Grants and Recent award pages can be found on the next page.

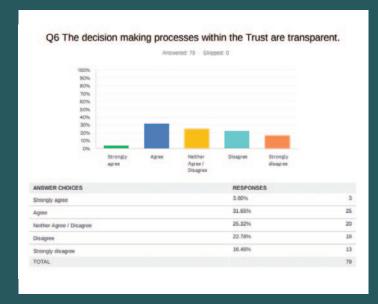


- 62% of the wider community have benefited from the investment of the Trust, 17% believe they have not. Don't forget one of the investments has been the new Wildside Centre which has opened this year and details of how to book for your group or event can be found below.
- 67% of the community believe the Trust supports local voluntary sector organisations, 7% disagree/strongly disagree. We've just launched a section on the website for local groups - find out more about them below and give one a go! We have a new What's On section and any group can let us know what they are up to in whatever community building they are using.
- Just over 50% feel the Trust makes the community feel empowered to take actions to Stratherrick and Foyers for everyone and 29% do not. We hope a new approach to delivering the Community Action Plan may help engage more people.
- The Trust cannot (and doesn't) do everything and therefore relies on partnership working with other community groups and stakeholders and this is likely to increase once the Community Action Plan is launched. Many of the questions from 14 to 25 will be impacted by the CAP and hopefully twelve months from now you may have more of an opinion on these questions. However we now have a benchmark to start from.

The results of the 'Take The Pulse' survey are available to read in detail at the link below.

Tony Foster, Trust Manager, SFCT





Useful Links:

How to join the Trust -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/join-the-trust

Frequently asked questions -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/qas

Learn about the Trust's current projects – www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/projects

Community Action Plan – www.communityfuture.net/news

Business Directory –

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/directory

Grants Available -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/general

Recent Recipients -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/grants-awarded

How to book Wildside -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/The-Wildside-Centre

Clubs and Groups -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/clubs-and-groups

What's On -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/whats-on

Take the Pulse results -

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/userfiles/file/News/2 020/Take%20The%20Pulse%20Survey%202021.pdf

Obituary

ANDREW FRASER, CORRIEGARTH



Andrew Fraser was born and raised in Edinburgh, son of Ian Fraser, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, a Law Lord and member of the Privy Council. He had a successful career in Asia, particularly Hong Kong where he was Chief Executive of Barings Securities but maintained his links to Scotland, buying Corriegarth Estate in 1987 when it consisted of a small farming enterprise with run down lodge and outbuildings.

Over the next three decades he transformed the estate, employing seven full time staff as well as providing part time and seasonal employment for many more. With a clear vision of the potential for the area he drove forward changes to the sporting and conservation of the moorland which resulted in enormous improvements to

the driven grouse shooting that was his passion alongside benefits for the biodiversity of the land.

Andrew was well known to many in the Strath and his deep interest in everybody he met made him a popular figure among people from all walks of life. He was as happy with a dram in hand cracking salty jokes with the keepers at the end of a day on the hill as he was serving in the House of Lords where he chose the title 'Corriegarth', a testament to the affection he felt for the land and people of Stratherrick.

Andrew, died peacefully on 6th February 2021, aged 74. He is deeply missed by his loving wife, Rebecca, his son Henry, and his four stepchildren, Catriona, Irene, Euan and Ruaridh.

KATE FORBES MSP CALLS IN ON OUR HIGHLAND HEARTLAND!

Scottish Finance Secretary and local MSP Kate Forbes called in to Stratherrick on a recent visit to Loch Ness side Communities.

A short tour included a stop at the Wildside Centre in Whitebridge, Riverside Field that has been supported by Scottish Land Fund and the former Free Church in Errogie.

Accompanying Kate Forbes was Kirsty Balfour and Gareth Jones, both volunteer directors of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust and CEO of the Trust Tony Foster. Kirsty said 'Kate was interested to see how the Trust's income from the local windfarm operators and hydro scheme developers was being used to support the residents in Gorthleck, Errogie and Foyers. The Trust's refurbishment of the Wildside Centre, which is now fully open for community use, and our recent support of projects to help all those affected by COVID-19 were a big talking point. Kate saw first-hand how community ownership of the Wildside Centre had unlocked an asset which had lain unused in private hands for years and years.

Kirsty also said 'Kate also visited the Riverside Field at Foyers. The Trust used £30,000 from the Scottish Government's land fund some years ago to secure the area for local recreation. The finalised plans are currently in for consideration by Highland Council's planning committee.

Errogie Kirk was Kate's final call. The Forbes are a well-known family over in upper Strathnairn and she saw the next main project the Trust has taken on. Gareth Jones of the Trust explained 'Again, we purchased a near-derelict building and our plan is to transform it into a special meeting place to complement the other community spaces around our district. Inside the old kirk is an awesome space which gives our



architects great scope to produce a building with a range of facilities including sports and heritage elements.

Reporting back to the full Trust Board, Tony Foster CEO of the Trust said 'The visit of Kate Forbes was a welcome opportunity to showcase our Trust's progress and underline the role communities can play in sustaining rural life. There's no doubt Kate understands the unique way in which Highland communities function and how the Government might best support us in the future.

Steven Watson, Community Liaison Officer, SFCT



BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE

Dear Community Members - Appeal for Carer recruitment

As you know Boleskine Community Care (BCC) works in partnership with the Highland Hospice 'care at home' service (Sunflower Care) and is a very valued asset to our community which many people in our community have and do benefit from.

Our Carers are totally dedicated and have worked tirelessly to deliver care in our community for many years but especially during covid and the lock down months.

Unfortunately, our reduced carer numbers along with long term sickness has increased pressure on current Carers and may impact on the ability to deliver the service necessary to meet our community needs.

It is therefore essential that we recruit more Carers and BCC asks that our community supports us to spread the word and encourage people to come forward to become a Carer.

So, if you are a 'people person' and want to play a very important part in our community please consider becoming a



Carer. The experience you will gain is boundless and rewarding in the knowledge that you are delivering care and compassion to those in our community.

Highland Hospice has worked hard to ensure our Carers terms and conditions are much improved with an increase in hourly rate and now have announced the introduction of reimbursement for travel and mileage as from 1st December.

This is great news and hopefully will ensure our Carers feel more valued and rewarded for the work they do, thus ensuring those in our community receiving care, take comfort in knowing that they will be cared for, kept safe and remain living in their home for as long as possible.

If you would like more information on a BCC perspective, please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone or by email. 01456 486476 or chair@boleskinecc.com

Many thanks, Kit Cameron

SSEN TRANSMISSION MELGARVE CLUSTER PROJECT

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) are hosting both face to face public consultations and a virtual online consultation exhibition to gain views and feedback on our proposals to connect the Glenshero, Cloich and Dell wind farms into the existing Melgarve 400/132kV substation to enable export of the electricity from these wind farms into the SSEN Transmission system, and we would like to invite you to attend in order for us to gain views and feedback on our proposals.

To allow for the festive period the consultations will be held both in December and January to ensure sufficient time for all interested parties to get involved.

The virtual online consultation will be held on:

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER BETWEEN 1-3PM AND 5-7PM

If you are unable to attend the above online session and would prefer to speak to members of the project team in person, the nearest open-door drop-in face to face consultation will be held on:

MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022 BETWEEN 2-7PM AT FORT AUGUSTUS VILLAGE HALL, FORT AUGUSTUS

The virtual consultation events have been designed to be as interactive as the face to face events, allowing presentation of key project information and plans, as well as providing opportunity to ask questions about the project. To find out how to join the interactive virtual consultation please visit the dedicated project website via the following URL, https://bit.ly/2ZPwUMv

If you are unable to make the dates and times of either the virtual or face to face consultations, feedback and comments can still be given by either visiting the project website, emailing Louise Anderson, Community Liaison Manager at louise.anderson@sse.com or by phone on 01738 341975.

JOIN THE LUVVIES!

For the last 18 months we've been living in a huge drama.

During the first lockdown we joined via Zoom for play readings to help keep our sanity. This petered out as the pandemic went on and on. Recently however we had a social evening for a catch up and a chance to start looking for our next production. Rehearsing and performing a drama should help bring normality back to our lives.

As a small talented and enthusiastic group, we are in much need of more enthusiastic and hopefully youthful members. We would welcome new members with open arms. Many great professional actors started their careers in am dram. All of the arts, especially acting, are wonderful confidence builders, giving opportunity for even the shyest to gain confidence in a fun way, by being someone else.

In real life, a surprising number of professional actors are shy people. Yet, when they become someone else they are able to perform without inhibitions. For any young people thinking of joining us, am dram is something to add to their CV, and everyone is a winner.

I'll end with this rallying cry: the Luvvies need you and you might need the Luvvies.

Jo Cameron, Chair

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council will take place on:

TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 7PM.

Due to the current ongoing Covid situation, Highland Council still recommend that meetings are held via video conferencing but this is still open for members of the public to attend.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please email us on email.sfcc@aol.com. The link and password will then be provided.

This will be followed by an ordinary Community Council meeting. Members of the public will be welcome to stay on or leave at any point.

There is space for another member on the Community Council; if you would like to become part of the Community Council or find out more, please use the email address above.

We look forward to seeing you.

Patrick Haston, Chairperson, Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council

SMOKE ALARM STATEMENT

As you know the Scottish Government has passed legislation requiring many householders to upgrade their fire and smoke alarm systems. Under the new regulations, by 1st February 2022 every home in Scotland must meet the 'Tolerable Standard' by having smoke alarms in every circulation space, smoke alarms in the rooms most frequently used, a heat alarm in the kitchen and a Carbon Monoxide alarm where there is a fuel burning appliance or flue. The smoke alarms must be connected – so that if one detects smoke the alarm sounds from all the detectors. The cost per household starts at around £300.

You approached the Trust to purchase smoke alarm kits for the whole community. As this is slightly unusual legislation which will have a financial impact on households the Community Trust were already working on a proposal to provide alarms for those who may find a £300 system expensive to purchase.

We submitted this proposal (in the region of £8000 with installation) and the proposal you suggested for all members of the community (in the region of £75,000 for kits only, not installation) to our funders but they ruled both as personal benefit, which is not allowed under the conditions of the funds we receive. Even if allowed both our proposals would have had to be taken from committed budgets, possibly impacting on other community led projects.

We appreciate this may be disappointing but discussing with the Community Council we discovered that there is some help from those who may need it. We hope you find this information below useful.

Also, as part of our proposal, we began to negotiate a deal for purchase and professional installation of the smoke alarms if enough people locally use the companies. We will publish a list of suppliers very shortly. There will be help from the Scottish Government for certain households to get the installation of these new smoke alarms free via the Care & Repair scheme. To be eligible for support from Care & Repair, you must live and own your home with a Council Tax banding of A-C. You must also either be of state pension age and in receipt of guaranteed Pension Credit or have a disability and be in a support group for Employment and Support Allowance.

The new requirements only apply to home owners, for anyone living in a rented house, this is your landlords responsibility. Please make sure they comply.

Any new build from 2003 onwards should have interlinked fire alarms but you will need to check that the locations of your fire alarms comply with the new legislation.

To book a free home fire safety visit, please call 0800 0731 999 or text ""FIRE"" to 80800 from your mobile phone or call your local fire station on 07816 098719

www.facebook.com/saferscot/posts/2992363191053391

Tony Foster, Trust Manager, SFCT



CAP LAUNCH

The Community Action Plan was launched at an event in the Wildside Centre on Friday 19th November. It was also a thank you to volunteers in the local community for the work they have done over the last eighteen months in particular.

Kirsty Balfour, Chair of the Trust, accepted the new plan from Nick Wright, of Nick Wright Planning. Nick's Team has been involved for over six months in gathering information and opinion on the next stages of the Trust's work. Kirsty said 'The Trust must use the community's money to make a big difference to life and prospects for our local population.'

Kirsty added 'We have numerous issues facing our scattered community. We want Foyers and Stratherrick to have the facilities and services which make it the best possible place to live, work and raise a family. The plan includes actions to improve housing and housing supply, to support our local voluntary groups, to enhance care opportunities and protect our natural environment.'

The launch was attended by over 30 members of the community, many of whom had taken part in the work to produce the plan.

Nick Wright said 'I am delighted with the level of engagement from so many people in the Foyers and the Strath to get to this point. The Action Plan has come out of collaboration and the sharing of information, hopes and aspirations for a stunning part of Scotland. A printed copy of the plan will be provided to every household in the district. When it comes to the future development of Stratherrick and Foyers, we all now

have a strong song sheet – or even a song book - from which everyone can sing!

The Plan is now available online at www.communityfuture.net and we will be delivering physical copies across the area to people we have addresses for over the next couple of weeks.

How can you relate to the Action Plan?

We would also like to introduce you to our CAP families -

- Meet Jim, 68, a retired estate worker.
- Meet Claire, 34, who has part time jobs in a local hotel.
- Meet Ryan, 16, who is at secondary school.
- Meet Amy, 22, who is a recent arts graduate.
- · Meet Paul, 52, a financial consultant.

You may have a friend or family member like Jim, Claire, Ryan, Amy and Paul.

They may even remind you of yourself.

Throughout the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Action Plan you can read how Jim, Claire, Ryan, Amy and Paul what areas of the plan they may be interested in getting involved with and what impact will it have for them. You will hear more about them in our December newsletter.

Tony Foster, Trust Manager, SFCT







firescotland.gov.uk

FOYERS COMMUNITY FIRE STATION

Foyers community fire station is currently looking for new recruits. Fire Fighter M Rimmer has now left the crew at Foyers due to relocation but we welcomed Fire Fighter R Jardine who completed his two weeks initial training at Invergordon Training School and started with us in the middle of October. If you are keen to find out more please come to the fire station at Gorthleck at 7pm on a Monday night or have a look at the firescotland website for more information on recruitment.

NEW SMOKE ALARMS

The legislation has been introduced by the Scottish Government following the Grenfell Tower fire in London in 2017, and it applies to all Scottish homes.

'Interlinked' means if one alarm goes off, they all go off, and it is the property owner's responsibility for meeting the new standard.

Ahead of this change, please be aware that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service can't recommend products or installers. We kindly ask that you do not contact your local fire station to enquire about this.

Guidance and further information can be found via the Scottish Government website.

SFRS HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS

To protect the most vulnerable, SFRS will only fit interlinked alarms into owner-occupied homes where the individual/household is assessed as "high risk" through our Home Fire Safety Visit assessment process.

If the individual / household does not meet these criteria, staff will provide safety advice, information and details of the revised legislation during the visit.

To request a Home Fire Safety Visit contact us on 0800 073199 or text "FIRE" to 80800

HELP WITH COSTS

It is the property owner's responsibility for meeting the new standard

If you are a private tenant, your landlord is responsible. If you are a council or housing association tenant, work is ongoing to make sure your home meets the new standards. Elderly or disabled people may be eligible for support to fit interlinked alarms from Care and Repair Scotland. They can be contacted via www.careandrepairscotland.co.uk or by calling 0141 221 9879.

And finally the crew at Foyers would like to wish everyone a very merry, but safe Christmas and a Good New Year, please see some of our festive safety tips.

FESTIVE SAFETY TIPS

- Check your smoke and heat alarms are working. Replace batteries if necessary.
- If you have an open fire make sure your chimney is swept before winter. Always use a fire guard, secured in position, to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.
- Never place Christmas cards or decorations around the mantelpiece.
- Check your Christmas light plugs are fitted with the correct fuse, don't overload extension leads and ensure all electrical devices are Intertek BEAB approved.
- Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed.
- Decorations can burn easily don't place them near lights or heaters.
- Never leave cooking unattended, especially when using hot oil. For early warning of fire consider fitting a heat alarm in your kitchen.
- Take time to check on elderly relatives and neighbours this Christmas as they are at greater risk from fire, particularly if they suffer from ill health or disability.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WC Stewart Macpherson, RVS Support





WINTER WONDERLAND!

We are very much looking forward to this year's Christmas event, which has something for all the family!

Would you like to be involved in our event? Maybe you would like to be an Elf, or help with the decorations?

Please get in touch with Caroline at pc@sfctrust.org.uk if you can spare a couple of hours – we will find a role that suits you!

Jillian Barclay Director, SFCT



TRUST RECRUITMENT

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES OFFICER – BASED WILDSIDE CENTRE

Stratherrick and Foyers Community
Trust 'SFCT' is looking for a person to
provide buildings and facilities
management and caretaking cover for
buildings owned/managed by SFCT and
in particular The Wildside Centre with
limited requirements at Errogie
Church/Riverside/Foyers Bay.

£13.12 an hour for 15 to 20 hours a week (equivalent of £25,584 pro rata).

35 days holiday (pro rata) Workplace Pension.

Approx 2 hours a day. (this is expected to increase as facilities and projects develop, based on findings of Community Action Plan). We would consider job share.

If you are interested in this role please reply with CV and describing how your knowledge and skills meet the duties described below, by noon Tuesday 7th December 2021, either by email to admin@sfctrust.org.uk or by letter to SFCT, The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge, IV2 6UN.

For more information on the Trust and the community of Stratherrick and Foyers see our website www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

Duties:

- Minor maintenance of buildings -Preventative and Reactive maintenance.
- Manage with the Trust Manager complex repairs and maintenance tasks requiring specialist knowledge and skills.
- To provide key-holder service to allow entry to Community Groups and other users.
- 4. To ensure security of building and grounds when not in use.
- 5. To provide access and manage contractors and maintenance personnel as required.
- 6. To provide monthly water and electricity meter readings, weekly clean of property including vacuuming, dusting, emptying of bins, cleaning of kitchen surfaces and sinks, cleaning and disinfecting WC's including floors, replenishing supplies of toilet roll, soap and handtowels, ensuring correct waste bins are placed for collection by Council, sweeping of external entrance and paths, litter picking of grounds and car parking, fire alarm tests and, when necessary, snow shovelling and salting to maintain safe entrance and walkway.
- Some minor gardening and plant maintenance works including tasks such as the changing of light bulbs and fixing leaks.

- 8. Order cleaning supplies and equipment and maintain an appropriate stock at all times.
- 9. To provide monthly window clean.
- Notify the Trust Manager when major repairs or structural issues are required.
- 11. External contractor suitability, management and assurance.
- 12. Ensure users clean and maintain the building after use and cleaning when appropriate.
- 13. Staff (cleaner) supervision and management.
- 14. Member of event planning group and assume responsibilities given.
- 15. Support to Project/steering groups.
- Administrative support (scanning and forwarding letters received and Wildside bookings).
- 17. Ensure compliance with legislation in terms of Statutory Legislation, Health, Safety and Environmental Management etc.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

No specific qualification is required for this role but the applicant must be able to demonstrate good general practical and maintenance skills needed for this role.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

The post holder will be required to vary his/her personal working hours according to the requirements of the job which includes out of normal hours working. The post holder will be required to work evenings as required.

SUPPORT LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS!

Our community is very fortunate to be home to a number of local businesses, many of whom would appreciate your support this festive season.

To find out what is on your doorstep, visit the community's Business Directory - www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/directory.

If you are business owner who would like a listing in the directory, please contact Steven at clo@sfctrust.org.uk and he will let you know what is required.

A number of local craft businesses will also be attending the Winter Wonderland event at Wildside on the 10th and 11th December, so pop along for a wander and pick up some unique Christmas presents!



JOIN THE TRUST

If you would like to become a member of the Trust then please click the link. https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/join-the-trust/

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Soup to Go! Every Monday from 12pm

Wildside Baby & Toddler Group Every Thursday 9:30am-11:30am

Sunday 28th November Closing date for Santa's Grotto Bookings

Wednesday 1st December Monthly SFCT Board Meeting

Saturday 4th December 9am- Wild crafts open day

Monday 6th December 7:15pm- Singing Group

Tuesday 7th December 6:30pm- Spin & Chatter Group

Friday 10th December 4-8pm- Winter Wonderland

Saturday 11th December 12-6pm- Winter Wonderland

Saturday 18th December 4-6pm Baby & Toddler Christmas Party

Tuesday 21st December Closing date for grant applications

MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS... AND PHOTOGRAPHER

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

Thanks also to Russell for his fab photos.





