

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS

April 2024 Issue Number: 50

HIGHLAND GATHERING SPECIAL EDITION



A SHOWCASE
OF WHAT'S
ON IN OUR
COMMUNITY!

THE
COMPANION
DOG SHOW!



SUPPORTING
RSABI

and... remember to bring your newsletter
to the Highland Gathering to get your
tokens for a FREE burger or cake!

Photo by Robbie Burn

*The deadline for content for the August
newsletter is **Friday 16th of August 2024.***

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

WELCOME TO YOUR HIGHLAND GATHERING NEWSLETTER SPECIAL!

We are pleased that the Highland Gathering will be returning to Corriegarth Estate this summer, and we hope that there will be something there for everyone!

The Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band will again open the event, and Cheryl Heggie has been busy working with some local youngsters who will form this year's Highland Dancing display. It is great to see a new activity develop in the community as a direct result of having highland dancing at the previous Gathering, and this is a fabulous opportunity for our budding dancers to show off their new talents!

The dog show will remain a large part of the event again, and we have more categories this year, so please bring along your 4-legged friends too. The money we raise from the dog show will be donated to Munloch Animal Aid, so remember to enter as many categories as

you are able! The category details and how to enter can be found on pages 6 and 7.

There are also competitions – we have homebaking and growing; with all the sunny weather we have had lately, fingers crossed there will be lots of wonky vegetables ready by the middle of July! There will of course be plenty to do for all the family. We have a dedicated 'Kid's Corner', with activities run by Stratherrick Parent Council, face painting, and willow weaving workshops run by Christiane Morley. We have two bouncy castles this year, along with a bungee run (this one is not just for the children!) and of course welly wanging, races and pull the tractor are back in the main ring too. We also hope to have a few animals (other than dogs) on show, including Corriegarth's resident Valais Blacknose sheep, hill ponies and ferrets! This is just a sample of what will be on offer – you will find more details on all that is going on in the following pages, so please read on, keep Saturday the 20th July firmly in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you!

Caroline Tucker,
Event Lead

TOKENS!

Enjoy a burger on us!

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust will be operating a token system, which entitles every community member to a free burger or hot dog from Lyne Mhor Croft's BBQ Stand or two pieces of traybake from the Soup to Go stand located in the main marquee.

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

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

COMPETITIONS

The judging for this year's competitions will take place in the Kid's Corner tent, located next to the bouncy castles. This year we have an exciting Miniature Garden Competition, Home Baking Competition and grow the Wonkiest Veg competition! Please see the poster below for classes. These competitions are for adults and children! Please have your entries to us by 1pm on the day of the event; judging will commence at 2pm. Thank you to our judges, who are very much looking forward to seeing how creative you all are!

JUDGES

Home Baking – Soup to Go
Miniature Garden – Jan Steven
Wonkiest Veg – Helen Grainger

THE HIGHLAND GATHERING 2024
CORRIEGARTH ESTATE

ARTS & CRAFT ENTRIES

ABOUT THE COMPETITIONS

MINIATURE GARDEN COMPETITION
ENTRANTS MUST BE ABLE TO CARRY THEIR MINIATURE GARDEN

CLASS 1: UNDER 16'S
CLASS 2: ADULTS 16 AND OVER

HOME BAKING
CLASS 1: A SMALL DECORATED CAKE OF YOUR CHOICE - UNDER 16'S
CLASS 2: A DECORATED CAKE OF YOUR CHOICE - ADULTS 16 AND OVER

WONKIEST VEG
(UNDER 12 ONLY)
CLASS 3: THE WONKIEST VEGETABLE OR FRUIT WINS!
CLASS 4: DECORATE A VEGETABLE OF YOUR CHOICE.

ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED IN THE KIDS' CORNER TENT AT THE GATHERING FIELD BY 1PM. JUDGING AT 2PM

SFCT

RACES

We have something for all ages and abilities so please do join in if you can! Please collect your registration form from the Kids Corner on arrival and take it along to the main ring for 1pm.

The Hill race is also back! So, if you would like to try something more challenging than the races below then this is for you! The course is 3.5 miles in length, with an ascent of 700ft. It is open to anyone over the age of 15; please collect your registration form from the Kids Corner on arrival, and the race starts at 1pm in the main ring. Prizes for first male and first female across the line. Also this year, the Johnston Cup will be presented to the first member of Stratherrick & Foyers Community to finish.

THE HIGHLAND GATHERING 2024
CORRIEGARTH ESTATE

KIDS RACES!

FREE ENTRY
ADULTS CATEGORIES TOO!
SAT 20th JULY

1. 100M DASH 18+
2. KIDS FLAT RACE
3. BEAN BAG RACE
4. 3-LEGGED RACE
5. DRESS UP TEAM RACE
6. TATTIE SACK RACE
7. WELLY WANGING

Register by 1pm in the kids' corner on the day!

SFCT

WILLOW WEAVING

Local basket maker Christiane Morley will run three small workshops at the Highland Gathering. Children and adults will have the opportunity to weave a willow fish ornament or hot plate holder. You will also learn the basic art of willow weaving. No previous experience is necessary and the workshop will be free of charge.

Workshops will run at 1, 2 and 3 pm and last about 45 minutes each. Contact Christiane to book a place either at info@inspiration-scotland.com or through Facebook.

Christiane Morley



MEG'S MINDFUL MOVEMENT

Meg's Mindful Movement will be delivering a taster session on Beginners Gentle Mindful Yoga, Breathwork and Relaxation, which will be accessible to all over the age of 16 with the option to sit! To book, please visit www.megsmindfulmovement.co.uk or contact Meg via FB messenger and book direct.

If you can, please bring a blanket for relaxation.





SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

The South Loch Ness Heritage Group will have a stand at this year's Highland Gathering. You will find them next to the vintage tractors. You will be warmly welcomed, and they are offering something for ALL ages. Have a look and see what you might like to get involved in!

KNOW YOUR STRATH – Quiz for under 12's. Answers can be found in our South Loch Ness booklets available at hand. Prizes for top marks!

10 MYSTERY OBJECTS – Guess, Record, Win a prize!

Wander round displays of photographs from activities, agriculture, shooting and social gatherings from the past.

BROWSING TABLE – where you can sit (for a while!) and view more records from the past and some rare artefacts of days bygone.

BOOKS FOR SALE

LOCH NESS RURAL COMMUNITIES

LNRC will be joining us again this year. Pop along to their marquee for some interesting activities and learn about rural life on this side of the loch. More to be confirmed!



LOCAL CHARITIES

The Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Service, the local Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and the Neil Mackenzie Trust will also be in attendance this year's Gathering. We will also be joined for the first time by the RNLI who will be there promoting water safety and lots more!



HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND

Home Energy Scotland energy advisors will be attending The Highland Gathering at Corriearth Estate this July!



Come along and have a chat to a friendly Home Energy advisor who will be here giving free and impartial energy saving advice whilst also providing guidance on how to access a variety of support and funding. We look forward to seeing you there.

COMPANION DOG SHOW

(Held under Kennel Club Regulations)

in aid of Munloch Animal Aid

At

The Highland Gathering at Corriegarth

Saturday 20th July 2024 at Corriegarth Estate, Inverness. IV2 6UL

Entry Fees: £2 per class

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

Entries taken from 12 noon; judging commences at 1:00pm

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

Judges: Sue McBeath (Pedigree Classes), Caroline Mortimore (Novelty Classes)

Class No. Pedigree Classes

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

Novelty Classes

6. Best cross breed
7. Best rescue dog
8. Best movement
9. Dog with the waggiest tail
10. Dog the judge would most like to take home
11. Dog most like its owner
12. Best 6 legs
13. Most handsome dog
14. Prettiest bitch
15. Best condition
16. Junior handler 8 – 11 years
17. Junior handler 12 - 16 years

Rules

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

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

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

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

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

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

The judge's decision is final.

DOG SHOW

Thank you once again to Gill Gray for organising the dog show for us, and to our judges this year, Sue MacBeath, owner of Simply Pets on Harbour Road, and Caroline Mortimore of Gorthleck.

Thank you also to Moray Coast Vet Group for sponsoring the pedigree categories.



As this part of the event proves very popular there have been some new categories added! So please bring your dogs along, whatever size, shape, colour or age, to join in the fun! We would also like to have a Winners Parade in the main ring towards the end of the afternoon so please do stay for this if you can and give your dogs one last chance to show off!

THE HIGHLAND GATHERING
CORRIEGARTH ESTATE, GORTHLECK, IV2 6UL

COMPANION DOG SHOW

SAT 20TH JULY
12-4PM

2024!

£2 PER CLASS

5 Pedigree and 12 Novelty classes
Rosettes to 5th place
Best in Show
Reserve Best in Show
Best Puppy in Show
Best Veteran in Show

ENTRIES FROM 12 NOON,
JUDGING COMMENCES
AT 1:00PM

COME AND HAVE A GO AT FLY TYING!

Would you like to make your own fishing flies?

Pop into the Quiet tent at the far end of the event field from 1.30pm to watch Garry Ferguson, Underkeeper at Corriegarth, and his father, Joe, fly tying. They will give you advice on how to choose the materials and help you make your own fly!



Highland Gathering at Corriegarth Estate



SITE PLAN

1. Welcome Tent - Tokens, First Aid, Lost Property, Volunteer/Staff Base
2. Ferrets
3. Emergency Access
4. Food Trucks
5. Toilets
6. Dog Show
7. Cairngorm Mountain Rescue, SFRS, RNLI
8. Kids Corner, Bouncy Castles
9. Falconry Display
10. Quiet Area
11. Farmyard Animals
12. Hill Race
13. LNRC
14. Main Ring
15. Vintage Vehicle Display
16. Heritage Marquee
17. Bar
18. Main Marquee
19. Highland Coffee Pod
20. Outdoor Market
21. Pedestrian Entrance

SCHEDULE

12:00 - 12:15	Inverness Royal Legion Pipe Band open this year's Highland Gathering
12:20 - 12:40	Highland Dancing with Cheryl Heggie School of Dance
12:40 - 13:00	Falconry display by Huntly Falconry
13:00 - 14:00	Start of Hill Race Other races and Welly Wanging in the ring
14:00 - 14:20	Pull the Tractor
14:20 - 14:40	Vintage vehicle display
14:40 - 15:00	Gundog display
15:00 - 15:20	Inverness Royal Legion Pipe band
15:20 - 15:30	DanceFit session
15:30 - 15:40	Community Strip the Willow
15:40 - 15:50	Dog show winners' parade
15:50 - 16:00	Drawing of the raffle and competition winners
16:00	CLOSE

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Rings 2 & 3 -Please register your entries at the Dog Show gazebo by 1pm. Pedigree classes will take place in Ring 2 and Novelty classes in Ring 3.

Willow Weaving Demonstrations will take place at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm in the Kid's Corner tent. To book your place please [contact info@inspiration-scotland.com](mailto:contact.info@inspiration-scotland.com)

The Fire Brigade and Cairngorms Mountain Rescue Team will run demonstrations throughout the afternoon – the timings of these will be announced during the event. Sheepdog demonstration in the back field at 3pm.

Site Plan and schedule correct at time of going to print. May be subject to change.

MARKET

We have a fantastic selection of local crafters and producers joining us this year, selling a range of products, including food, flowers & planters, pottery, textiles and crafts. Come and have a browse! Our Market will be mainly in the main marquee, along with our community groups and charities. A small selection of who will be joining us are below:

CAROL'S SEW GOOD CREATIONS

EARTHGEMS JEWELLERY

FLORAL BEAUTY BY DESIGN

JINTY'S JAMS AND JELLIES

LEAH GRACE CREATIONS

MABEL & MILLIE CANDLE CO

FLOWERS BY THE LOCH

BEADILICIOUS

BY SEA BY LAND

LYNN WINPENNY ART

CROWN LARDER

AND KINDNESS GLASS TO NAME A FEW!



FOOD & DRINK

We are very excited that Adam and Jane of Lyne Mhor Croft in Gorthleck will be cooking up a storm taking on the barbecue this year! They will be cooking some of their own amazing sausages straight from the croft and there will be homemade venison burgers kindly donated by Corriegarth Estate.

Continuing with the community theme, Soup to Go will be on hand with their amazing cakes & bakes in the main marquee. They will also have kids boxes that they will be handing out at the gate for the first 50 children into the Highland Gathering Field, so get in early if you have little ones! Soup to Go will be raising funds for their very popular weekly lunches held at the Wildside Centre, so bring your change and if you can, please support this amazing group. We can't wait to see what they have to offer!

Remember to collect your tokens from the welcome tent on presentation of your newsletter – these can be used at either the barbecue or the Soup to Go stand!

This year we are fortunate to have additional food and drink outlets attending the Highland Gathering; Graze Days, Drink me events, the Black Isle Dairy and the Highland Coffee Pod will be keeping our energy levels topped up with their fabulous food and drinks! Pop along and support these fantastic local food and drink vendors!



SILENT AUCTION

This year's silent auction will be raising funds for RSABI – a charity that provides emotional, financial and practical support for anyone involved in the agricultural industry in Scotland, as chosen by the Johnson family and Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust.

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

We have collected some fantastic prizes so far, with more to be announced, including Dinner, bed and breakfast at the Whitebridge Hotel, 1 Day's Stalking at Corriegarh Estate, a Spa treatment at Sleeping Beauty Salon in Inverness and a Loch Ness Rib ride for 4 on the Wee Beastie! Thank you very much to the businesses who have generously donated – please dig deep for this amazing charity who do fantastic work in communities such as ours. You can enter the silent auction by filling in a bidding form at the raffle table located in the main marquee. The winning bids will be announced at the end of the event.



If you would like to donate a prize to the silent auction, please contact pc@stctrust.org.uk

RAFFLE

This year Stratherrick Clay Target Club, based at Torness, will be running the raffle to raise funds to help them buy new equipment to increase junior tuition at the club. There are already some fantastic prizes lined up including shopping vouchers, a family swim pass for Inverness Leisure, clay target lessons and a Tomatin 12 Year Old Malt Whisky! There is still time to donate a prize if you can. Please email Lesley at Stratherrickclaytargetclub@outlook.com

KEEP UP TO DATE

The easiest way to keep up to date with what's happening at this year's Highland Gathering is to use the QR code and head to the dedicated Facebook events page. Alternatively head to our website

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk



IN OTHER NEWS!

BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE

Join BCC for their 10th anniversary on Saturday the 29th of June between 12pm & 4pm for a Picnic & Party! There will be live music, activities, garden games and lots more!



BOLESKINE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Every Sunday we meet at Boleskine Church at 10:30am. Our current age range is from 3 to 90 years old, there is no limit either way. The service is about 45 mins long and then there is coffee afterwards, which can go on as long as the service... if not longer! Come once a week! All welcome.

FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP!

Starting this month the Fundraising team at SFCT are going to be at The Wildside Centre on the first Thursday of each month from 9.30am until 12noon to support individuals, community groups and small enterprises with funding applications. Perhaps you have an idea to progress your community group with a specific activity or event and you need help with the application, or you may have a great idea to run a project but want to see if you can get some financial assistance.



Not only that Sharon and Sarah will be putting forward some funding ideas for you and here is a snippet of some of the things that we come across that could be useful to you.

Aldi Scottish Sports Fund could support with capital costs of up to £2500 if your group is eligible. Designed to make it easier for kids to take part in sports from rugby clubs to after school clubs, new club strips to equipment and transport costs.

Perhaps you need business support, you could look to the Community Enterprise Accelerate Scheme that provides targeted consultant support to third sector organisations and community groups to help with marketing, find digital solutions and help you plan financially and work on budgets.

Music for All is a charity set up to support community groups as they believe everyone should have the chance to learn to play music, if you are a community group or are thinking about setting up as one this fund might help you make the next step and offer a “helping hand” financially.

As Fundraisers we often spot great funding opportunities that could work for our community groups, individuals and on occasion businesses. We can also assist with applications you may like to make to the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust and advise on whether you would like to become a constituted community group (or not) and what staff support is available too. So come along, have a cup of tea and cake with us and see where we may be able to help you.

Sarah and Sharon
(Fundraising Team)

WHY NOT SCOTLAND?

The Biodiversity Group are hosting an event on the 15th June at Errogie Church.

From 18.30 everyone will be welcome to come along and listen to a talk about the upcoming Swift Project. John Parrott, (Errogie) will be giving the talk on swifts, which will be followed by the screening of the film produced by 'Why Not Scotland'.

Across mainland Europe, nature is making a dramatic recovery – could Scotland be next?

The compelling story of Flo, a young Scot, as she discovers #rewilding across Europe, prompting her to ponder the potential for a similar revival in Scotland.

More info can be found at www.scotlandbigpicture.com/why-not-scotland



The event will be free entry, but any donations would be very welcome. Popcorn and drinks will be available on the evening.

SWIFTS

Swifts are very special birds, quite unlike any other. For many of us, the sight and sound of a party of swifts flying at great speed over our towns and villages is the epitome of a perfect hot summer's day. Swifts spend almost all of their lives in the air, only coming to land in order to build a feather-lined nest and bring up a family.

They spend the winter in Africa and arrive back in Scotland in May, announcing their return to breeding sites with their spectacular flight displays and high-pitched calls. Swifts mostly choose to nest in buildings, especially old houses and churches, where there are suitable cavities. By August, they have reared their young and are already on their way back south... leaving us, their hosts, to eagerly await their return next spring.



An adult Swift in flight
© Roger Hardie

Sadly, Swifts have declined in the UK by over 50% in just 20 years, and are now classed as a Red Listed Species. One of the factors compounding their plight is that there are fewer and fewer places to nest.

The good news is that Swifts are one of the few endangered species that individuals and communities can really help, either by creating access to existing cavities or installing nest boxes.

The biodiversity group, working alongside Boleskine Environmental Network and led by Errogie residents, are putting together a project to encourage swifts to establish more breeding colonies in the strath, which is set to be incubated in Errogie.

So, what's the plan?

The first stage of this project is to build and install a few specially-designed nest boxes on buildings in Errogie. One of the most promising candidates is the Errogie Church. There is already a small swift colony in Errogie, at The Old School, only a stone's throw from the Church, and it is anticipated that this attractive old building will also prove attractive to swifts.

With the support of the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust, the project will run a workshop to help members of the community build a number of nest-boxes, some of which will be installed on the Church.

Swifts are attracted to existing breeding colonies, so a small speaker will be placed near the boxes to play the right sounds. This

will encourage prospecting swifts to investigate the boxes and hopefully, in the course of time, take up residence.

There are many other suitable locations in the strath, and the project would like to help other house-holders set up their own swift boxes. The project will be able to advise on the best places to site them and share knowledge and resources to help you support nature in a direct way. If you are interested in helping the project in any way, do please get in touch with Sarah at sarah@sfctrust.org.uk or John at johnparrottca@gmail.com.

A few facts about swifts...

Swifts feed, drink, sleep and mate on the wing!

Swifts are the fastest birds in level flight, reaching an impressive 70mph!

Swifts are masters of the air, but there is a downside...

Swifts are summer visitors to the UK; they spend their winters in Africa, migrating 3,400 miles TWICE every year... re-fuelling along the way

Swift chicks have to learn to fly as they emerge from the nest, before they reach the ground!

Photo by Alasdair Henry

JOIN THE TRUST

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Can you spare some time before, during or after the Highland Gathering. We are looking for volunteers who can help with the set up of the event, marshalling and other general tasks throughout the day, and help with take down and clear up after the event. This opportunity is open anyone aged 14+ who wants to get involved! Please contact pc@sfctrust.org.uk if you can help.

FANCY VOLUNTEERING?



EMAIL PC@SFCTRUST.ORG.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION!



THANK YOU

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

