



# BROADFORD & STRATH COMMUNITY COMPANY

**CREATING A STRONG, SELF-SUFFICIENT,  
INCLUSIVE AND ECO-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

## 2022 NEWSLETTER



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



We were delighted to have been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in September and we believe we were one of the last groups to have received the award in the Queens lifetime. The award prompted the Princess Royal to come for a visit and we were delighted to show her round Camping Skye and the Growers Hub where she met with the Mens Shed and Flourish. Young Jac and Ella rounded off the tour beautifully guiding her through the forest to meet their classmates from Broadford Primary to show her what Corry Capers our Outdoor Learning group get up to.

The Queens Award for voluntary service is the equivalent of an MBE and is the highest award to be given to volunteer groups in the UK. It is awarded to exceptional groups of volunteers who are making a positive impact in their community and benefiting others through their work. We felt very proud to have accepted the award.

Lord-Lieutenant - Joanie Whiteford wrote *"In 2003 a group of likeminded environmentally conscious residents formed the Broadford and Strath Community Company. The group's holistic approach is exemplified by the development of the Growers Hub, the Flourish Project and the Men's Shed all of which provide excellent support to individuals who are struggling with loneliness or poor mental health. The group's strength of character is exceptional, exemplified by their steadfast commitment to achieve their goals without compromising their environmental principles. In short, they are a truly transformational group."*

In November we also received one of the Queen's Jubilee Celebration Tree of Trees. The tree has been planted in our Community Garden.

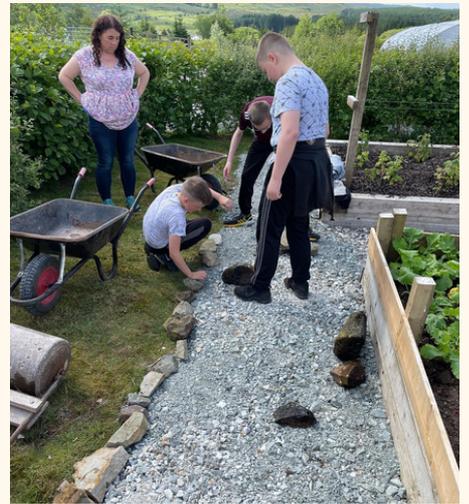


# GROWERS HUB

The Hub really is a Hub. A bustling, busy Hub with individuals, families and groups meeting to tend to their allotments, visit the Men's Shed, Flourish, Corry Capers, nursery sessions and school groups.

We have had a busy year with all the groups and in fact a common complaint is we don't have enough space for everyone who wants to visit. Our Men's Shed, for one, is growing and we are looking for a bigger space for them. If anyone has any suggestions please, please get in touch! Flourish is flourishing and they are now wanting to run a pot to plate project with plans in place for an outdoor kitchen – we are hoping the funding will follow. Corry Capers is full to the brim on a Friday (waiting list is open) but does have spaces at other times of the week if you want to enjoy some forest fun.

As well as fun, we have lots of hard work! Portree High School groups came down to build some paths and raised beds, sign making and growing food as part of a work experience project. We also have more volunteers busy with general maintenance and this year with the Royal visit we were painting for Scotland! And to finish up we can't talk about the Growers Hub without talking about our community pigs! Always the highlight of any visit to the Hub and everyone's favourite apart from when they get into the polytunnels....



**For more information: [nicholas@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:nicholas@broadfordandstrath.org)**

# Camping Skye

It is amazing to see where we came from and where we are now. Our community owned campsite is thriving and our plan is to open more camper van pitches next year. We are currently in the process of buying additional land next door to the campsite and trying to secure a funding package for the development. This has been supported thus far with funding from the Scottish Land Fund and some of our own funds. This year alone, from March till October, we had to turn down over 4300 campervans which just emphasises the need we have for additional pitches in South Skye and further afield.

Nothing would be possible here at Camping Skye without our lovely staff (Rachael, Ruarie, Alex, Gheorghe and Annie) or the local businesses involved with us from time to time (Lusan, Strath Print, Arnie Fish & Chips, etc). So again, thank you everybody for supporting the community and working hand in hand.

It's amazing to see where we are coming from and where we are now. Our community-owned campsite is doing well and we hope to open some more pitches next year. We unfortunately had to turn away more than 4,300 campervans this season, and we would love to be able to do more for everybody coming to visit our island in the future. It is definitely needed in the south of Skye.

We are looking forward to next season already. No doubt there will be challenges but there will also be plenty of good times. We will continue to offer the same quality of service to all our guests in 2023 and we are hoping for more 5\* reviews ;) For now its time for some more coffee (and biscuits) and focusing on our maintenance list and some smaller development projects. March 2023 will be here in no time and we look forward to reopening then.

*See you all very soon!*

*Anthony*



**Got more information please email: [mail@campingskye.com](mailto:mail@campingskye.com)**

## Flourish Together



Flourish Together continues to help and support those who need some time and space to re-engage with nature and people. The team has worked hard on making the Hub a welcoming place. As well as growing vegetables in the polytunnel, which was successful despite the weather, we have taken on some extra outside spaces which are fruitbeds. There are blueberries, gooseberries, raspberries, plus red and black currants. Although not a lot of fruit this year we have high hopes for the future and will nurture them as we do our volunteers and participants.



Our biggest achievement is the completion of the beautiful sensory garden. It has taken nearly two years of hard, often muddy work, and this year it was finally planted and blossomed. There are some who thought it would never be completed but the perseverance of the participants and volunteers have made a truly outstanding garden complete with pond, and a host of plants to stimulate the senses. It is a quiet place to sit and think while taking in the views.



We have also been busy making signs for the Growers Hub, using resources from our surroundings. These have made navigating the Hub much easier and demonstrate the new skills that have been gained.

We have welcomed new participants throughout the year and are working with the local Dementia group to establish a regular summer picnic. It's all go!

For more information email: [judy@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:judy@broadfordandstrath.org)

# Broadford & Strath Men's Shed

This has been a busy year in spite of having to close for a few months over the winter due to the Government's Christmas Covid directive.

The Co-op, as part of their Local Community Fund project, provided us a space during March for us to display information about the shed activities which was manned by shedders on Saturday mornings.

We have developed a good relationship with Brendon at the Lusa Sawmill who donates offcuts of wood to the Shed. Kyleakin Connections came to do a six week course where they built bird boxes and made some Christmas Decorations. This was much enjoyed by the KC group and shed members alike.

HRH Princess Anne visited the hub in September to present the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services to the Community Company and we were very happy to welcome her to meet the Men's Shed group. The shedders had made a Trug to contain a present for the Hub to give to HRH.



**For more information email: [shed@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:shed@broadfordandstrath.org)**

# Corry Capers

Corry Capers has had many positive developments in 2022. We welcomed Evelyn Campbell as a new member of staff. Evelyn brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm working with children in various childcare settings. The Corry Capers team continue to deliver quality and engaging after-school sessions whilst increasing holiday outdoor learning experiences for local and visiting families. Funding from the Highland Coastal Community Fund has enabled us to sustain and grow childcare provision to the community. “Children and young people were all very happy, engaged and having fun taking part in a range of exciting, creative and challenging activities.” This was one of the key messages delivered by the inspector in our very first Care Inspectorate inspection visit which took place in the summer holidays. The whole team were delighted to see the acknowledgement of all of our hard work and commitment to providing a vital and unique outdoor experience for children.

Our forest site continues to develop with the imagination of the children and the team’s time and skills, our cosy shelter is ever-changing to meet the needs of the children. Partnerships with other community organisations have also brought key changes to the site this year. We would like to thank the Countryside Skills Course students and staff for providing us with an amazing new path into the forest. This has made such a difference to our sessions. We would also like to thank the John Muir Trust for donating several amazing wooden structures that have greatly enriched the forest experience.



**For more information please contact: [Tracy@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:Tracy@broadfordandstrath.org)**



## The Skye Cycle Way - Bridge to Broadford Path

Over the course of the last year we have concentrated on finalising the route of the path, from the Skye Bridge to Ashaig (Phase 1), and from there through Breakish to the Sleat road end (Phase 2). This has meant continuing discussions with landowners to secure access rights and agreeing responsibility for the long-term maintenance of the path with Transport Scotland and Highland Council. We have also secured some significant promises of match-funding towards the construction of Phase 1.

We are aiming to complete 'Developed Design' by the end of March 2023, by which point we will have full planning consent and detailed designs for Phase 1, with all access consents in place. We will then be able to move forwards with Road Construction Consent and tendering. Phase 2 may have to move at a slower pace due to a more complicated design process.

We have undertaken two major public engagement events this year: An 'Update and Social' event in Breakish (August) with presentations by project officers and a chance to comment on Phase 2 route design; and a family-friendly 'Collaborative Design session' in Kyleakin (November) where people were invited to contribute design and place-making ideas. Both events were well attended with much valuable and positive feedback. We have also continued to engage the public through the BSCC website, the Skye Cycle Way Facebook page @SkyeBikeRunWalk, and press/PR activity.

**For more information please contact: [john@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:john@broadfordandstrath.org)**

# Community Fridge

The Broadford and Strath Community Fridge continues to disperse end of life food from the Co-op to the community. Our brilliant volunteers collect the food, open and close the fridge six days a week and are delivering an incredible service for our community and we must say a huge thank you to all those who make it happen. Thanks must also go to the Co-op and their staff for their support too – without this support the Community Fridge would not happen.

We also continue to provide space to the Community Foodbank Skye and Lochalsh and we think it is a partnership that works very well. On average most days we have at least five large boxes of food and every bit of it goes. We can never guarantee what we get into the fridge so if anyone is in food need please contact the Foodbank on 0739 3433 155. If anyone would like to help with the Community Fridge please get in touch via our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BroadfordandStrathCommunityFridge](http://www.facebook.com/BroadfordandStrathCommunityFridge). Keep an eye out on our facebook page for our festive period opening hours.

Last Christmas Eve we collected an incredible 24 boxes of food that would have otherwise gone to landfill instead it was used by the community. Supporting need whilst reducing waste and being part of a circular economy.

Thank you to all the volunteers for supporting the community fridge.



**For more information please: [mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org)**

# Community Gardener

Our new addition to the Growers Hub and BSCC this year was Sarah, our Community Gardener. Sarah was funded through the Highland Council Hero scheme – a brilliant initiative which supported BSCC as employers and Sarah, as an employee.

The community raised the rest of the funds needed for the post with funding coming from the Broadford and Strath Community Council, Broadford Primary Parent Council, Ward Discretionary Fund, Camping Skye and even some funds from the bees in Breakish (thanks to Liz for that). Sarah has been working all over, from the community growing polytunnel, path network, community garden, school garden and helping with replanting the village planters.

Thanks to Sarah for all her hard work! We are hoping to keep her in post next year too so lots more fundraising needed.



# Toilet Projects



Toilets, toilets, toilets. We had hoped to have our lovely new toilets in Elgol open for World Toilet Day on the 19th of November (yes it's a thing!) but alas it was not to be. We have had delays with material deliveries and then of course the weather was against us for the essential exterior landscaping. However, we are hopeful that they will be open in the next few months giving us a bit of time to get prepared for the next season.



As well as toilets we have a campervan disposal point and a new path being down to the shore. All these essential parts of the project will support those in Elgol and, of course, our visitors.

Broadford toilets are also very nearly there. With opening day looming we need to think about the old toilets and what to do with them.



BSCC have expressed an interest in the old toilet block and have carried out an online survey looking for suggestions but our ears are still open. If you have any thoughts at all please send them to [mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org) We can't wait for our toilets to be open and we hope you enjoy our loos with quite possibly the best views in Scotland!

## Waste Project

We were chosen at the start of the year to be one of the eight implementing partners of the Highland Community Waste Partnership (HCWP), which is funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund and coordinated by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful. This 3-year project is aimed at reducing waste and consumption across the Highlands, as part of Scotland's Net Zero climate emergency ambitions. Our part of the project covers the whole of Skye & Raasay.

Fiona is the Community Waste Officer on this project and started the role in April this year. One of our main focuses will be on supporting businesses to reuse and reduce cardboard waste through reuse and recycling, including linking into brown waste for community composting. Other projects include a reusable pizza box pilot and reusable cup schemes for community events. The project also aims to engage communities around Skye & Raasay on ways to be more sustainable through creating more of a reuse, sharing and repair culture on the island. This will be done through running different events e.g. climate cafes, swapping/swishing, composting workshops and film nights. So far, we have had a car boot sale, clothes swapping event for Christmas and have started a series of climate conversations in collaboration with Skye Climate Action about our current food system and how we can change it locally for both the environment as well as our health.

The other partners that we have been working with and will continue to do so are Thurso Community Development Trust, Lairg & District Learning Centre, Ullapool Community Trust, Transition Black Isle, Highland Good Food Partnership, Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop in Inverness and Lochaber Environmental Group.



For more information please contact: [fiona@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:fiona@broadfordandstrath.org)

# *Some of the team...*



*Thanks as always to all our volunteers*



Would you like to join us? If so please drop us a line to discuss your specific interests and experience.

**JOIN US!**

[mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org)



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COMMUNITY**

Registered in Scotland 246279

## **Membership Application Form**

I wish to support the Company in its objects as listed overleaf and I hereby apply for membership.

Surname ..... Title .....

First Names .....

Address .....

..... Post Code .....

Tel ..... Email .....

I consent to information about me being held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. I am over eighteen years of age.

I wish to make a donation of £ ..... to the Company's funds at this time.

Signed ..... Date .....

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(It will help the Company's records to have the following optional information)

I am particularly interested in .....

I may be able to help with .....

I am a member of ..... Group in Broadford

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The completed form can be emailed to:

[mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org)



## *About us*

### *Directors*

Chairperson: Neil Hope --- Vice chair: Shirley Grant --- Treasurer: Jeff Geary  
Alison MacLennan, Ben Yoxon, Hermione Lamond, Roddy MacLeod, Donald  
Robertson and Adele Beck

### *Project Officers:*

Nicholas Kelly – Growers Hub Co-ordinator (funded through the National  
Community Lottery Fund)

Judy Finlay & Claire Dorman – Horticultural Therapist (funded through the  
National Community Lottery Fund and Camping Skye)

Norma Morrison – Community Co-ordinator (Coastal Communities)

Andrew Prendergast & John Phillips- Project Officers for Skye Cycle Way  
(funded by Sustrans)

Fiona Gallie - Highland Community Waste Partnership (The National Lottery  
Community Fund)

### *Camping Skye:*

Anthony Robin, Ruarie Anderson and Rachel Thornton.

### *Corry Capers:*

Tracy Keenan, Jonathan Milne, Evelyn Campbell, and Asha Savage.

*More information:* [www.broadfordandstrath.org](http://www.broadfordandstrath.org)

*General enquiries:* [mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org)

