



↑↑↑ THE ENCHANTED FOREST TRUST

Chairman's introduction

On behalf of The Enchanted Forest Community Trust, I'd like to express a great many thanks to the whole community of Pitlochry who helped make our 2019 show such a success, welcoming 80,000 visitors to our beautiful Victorian town in October, and helping show off Highland Perthshire hospitality at its very best. We'd also like to express our gratitude for the exceptionally hard work of our small army of stewards and local partners, including Blair Athol Distillery who hosted our new Accessibility Bus Service and Fishers Hotel who hosted our main departures, for helping to make the event run so smoothly. We've now fully restored Faskally Wood to its natural glory and our operations team are taking a short break before getting stuck into planning for our 2020 show.

I'm also delighted to announce that our 2020 Community Fund Applications are now open and would very much encourage local groups and charities to apply. Details of how to apply can be found on the front page of our website.

Ian Sim, **Chairman**
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Community trust news
January 2020



Bat Box Boost for Faskally Wood

Partnership work to erect bat boxes within Faskally Wood has been a huge success. A total of 30 boxes were funded by The Enchanted Forest Community Trust in 2017 by Tayside Bat Group.

Forestry and Land Scotland, which provided support funding, has been monitoring the boxes and has found them to be home to 44 soprano pipistrelle bats.

Ian Sim, Chairman of The Enchanted Forest Community Trust, said: "We are always looking to reinvest in the local community and funding the bat boxes was designed to encourage and develop the forest's wild ecosystem. We are really pleased that they have proved to be so popular!"

Gareth Ventress, for the FLS environment team in the area, said: "The boxes have increased the potential roosting sites for protected species within a working forest and our survey has revealed how successful they've been. Almost all of the bats have now been sexed, weighed and measured and some of them are nearing the upper end of the scale for their species, weighing in at 7.2g when their upper limit is around the 8g mark. That's a really good sign that they are thriving!"

Community Fund Applications Now Open

The Enchanted Forest Community Fund is now accepting applications from local community groups, project and charities in Pitlochry and the wider Highland Perthshire area.

Now in its eighth year, the Enchanted Forest Community Trust set up the Fund to ensure the event provided significant economic benefits to the local community.

An incredible £40,000 is available this year thanks to the success of 2019's record-breaking show COSMOS, which attracted more than 80,000 visitors to Faskally Wood. Funds also come from donations made by the event's customers when buying tickets and from donations made at Departures for tickets that have been returned because they cannot be used.

Completed applications should be returned no later than February 29th – to download an application form, visit www.enchantedforest.org.uk

Future Forest

Faskally Wood is a very precious location to us and, while the land is owned and managed by Forestry & Land Scotland, The Enchanted Forest Community Trust work in partnership with them to ensure the forest is kept in the best of condition for now and in the future. In 2019 The Enchanted Forest Community Trust invested £25,000 upgrading the pathways in Faskally Wood which, in turn, improved the accessibility of the event overall and for the forest visitors all year round.

The event team also created a focus on improving waste management on site during the event, initially trialing separated waste in 2018 and improving the system for disposal in 2019. Working alongside Entrust, the team received feedback that our efforts had come on leaps and bounds in the last twelve months and that we were one of the best events that they have worked with, demonstrating our commitment to the environment in which we operate.

