

Community trust news
January 2021



Chairman's introduction

I expect everyone will be starting 2021 with a mixture of trepidation and hope.

The Enchanted Forest team are in just that frame of mind as we work earnestly towards returning to Highland Perthshire this coming Autumn with what will be our 20th Anniversary show.

The work that is currently going on behind the scenes is a testament to the professionalism we've come to expect from our award winning team, to look at how we can operate the event safely with (potentially) coronavirus restrictions in place.

We are also hoping that promises of vaccination and a near return to normality will also come to fruition in the very near future, allowing us to relax the complexity, and create magic in our normal way.

We know how important the event is to the economy of Highland Perthshire and to a great many businesses and we are so looking forward to returning.

Tickets will go on sale to the public in June 2021 and we hope you have the date marked firmly in your calendar, like we do, as a beacon of hope for everyone in 2021.

Keith Moncrieff, **Chairman**
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The Enchanted Forest creates Beacon of Hope for the Community

While we were not able to stage our normal event in 2021, we hope you got the opportunity to enjoy the laser show which was projected into the skies around Pitlochry every night during what would have been our opening weekend. This was our way of saying thank you. You have supported us over the last nineteen years and we wanted to let you know we are still with you during these challenging times.

The Enchanted Forest has always been a community led event, managed by the community, for the community. We believe that there is true magic in the power of communities working together.

Like everyone, we wanted to look to the future with positivity and determination. The first batch of tickets for our 20th Anniversary event went on sale to the public on Monday 5th October and sold out quickly which was a real boost for the team behind the show, all of whom are working hard to ensure that The Enchanted Forest can safely return this year.

For ticket information please visit: www.enchantedforest.org.uk

Local groups receive over £68,000 in donations from The Community Fund

The Enchanted Forest is operated by a charitable trust and last year, despite the challenges presented by COVID, we were still able to continue to support 29 local projects and organisations with cash donations amounting to over £68,000.

With no show having taken place in 2020, however, the trustees made the difficult decision to take a break from running a Community Fund initiative in 2021 to secure the reserves and guarantee the event will return in October 2021.

A Pupdate on Cosmos

At the beginning of lockdown in March 2020, we received some pup-tastic news about the birth of Cosmos, a golden retriever and future "guide dog in training" that was named after our hugely successful 2019 Enchanted Forest show.

The Trust sponsored the guide dog after Guide Dogs Scotland (Perth & Kinross) was chosen as one of the official charity partners of the 2019 show.

Training a Guide Dog puppy in normal circumstances is challenging, however in the context of lockdown it has been even more so with less people and traffic around to help familiarise the pup with the obstacles they need to navigate in the real world.

Despite this, Cosmos's training continues to progress well and, thanks to regular Pup-dates from her trainer, we're delighted to hear that Cosmos is evolving into quite the model Guide Dog and is expected to go on to the very important role of becoming a future Guide Dog Mum herself this year, before completing her training.

Tayside Mountain Rescue Missions Boosted by Forest Funds

In October, Tayside Mountain Rescue received a generous donation of £10,000 from The Enchanted Forest Community Trust to contribute to its life-saving activities. The charity, which operates in all weather, all terrain and at all hours, is a group of around 50 local volunteers sporting a plethora of specialist outdoor skills including remote medical expertise, technical rigging, swift water rescue and search management.

Like so many charities in the UK, Tayside Mountain Rescue's fundraising was adversely impacted by the pandemic.

Kevin Linklater, President of Tayside Mountain Rescue commented: "We are very grateful to The Enchanted Forest Community Trust for their timely donation. Like so many charities, we were forced to cancel several of our own fundraising events in 2020 and this donation will go a long way to boost our team funds. It is very much appreciated."



Search for New Trustees

The Enchanted Forest Community Trust is seeking to appoint new Trustees to the board in 2021 due to the retirement of long-serving members, Ian Sim and Cathy Joss. The current board wishes to extend their thanks to both for their commitment, input and contribution to the event.

Applications to the board of trustees are now open for community minded individuals who are interested in steering the strategic future of the event.

These are not remunerated posts and time commitment would include attendance at least six meetings over the year plus some activity in between meetings.

We are particularly interested in speaking to individuals who have experience and strength in the areas of business, technology and marketing.

To apply or discuss, please contact info@enchantedforest.org.uk



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