

Wild things!



Annual Review 2021



ncfe.

wildthings.org.uk

2021: ROOTS TO RECOVERY



For many, including the Wild Things team, 2021 was a year of mixed challenges. Whilst the pandemic continued and we started our year in lockdown, some restrictions also began to ease and Wild Things was able to resume a more normal pattern of working. Whilst far from being a easy year, Wild Things achieved a huge amount, continuing to scale-up our health and wellbeing in nature programmes at a time when they were needed more than ever.

After the second lockdown was announced in early 2021, Wild Things continued to deliver Stay Wild At Home, providing a suite of free nature-themed activity packs for the residents of care homes. We were happy to see this innovation continuing to serve some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

When the lockdown finally lifted in April, Wild Things was able to continue delivering Silver Saplings, our suite of nature-based health and wellbeing sessions. Whilst care homes were still unable to allow charities like ourselves on site, we nonetheless worked with a record number of young people across Moray and the Highlands as well as supporting adults through our Wild Walks.

Thanks to the exceptional efforts of dedicated staff and volunteers, our habitat restoration project continued to protect the lower Findhorn River from the invasive non-native species (INNS) and we have observed a resurgence of native species across our project site.

We were also delighted to resume our schedule of accredited training services, including gaining new accolades for our courses. Both our Woodland and Coastal Activity Leader Training courses received Professional Recognition from the General Teaching Council for Scotland!

As we finally begin to see a return to normality, the damage done by both Covid-19 and its necessary restriction is still affecting many. At Wild Things, we know how important escaping into nature has been for many people and we are proud to have been able to support our communities in their greatest hour of need.



I Strachan

Chief Executive Officer



SILVER SAPLINGS

- Our Silver Saplings project provides nature-based health and wellbeing services to primary schools, care homes, young people and adults.
- Highlights include:
- Working with **78 vulnerable teens** across Moray and the Highlands including Elgin Academy, Forres Academy, Lossiemouth high School, and Inverness Royal Academy
- We worked with **185 children across eight primary schools**: Glass, Holm, East-end, Hopeman, Pilmuir, Lhanbryde, Raigmore and Deshar primary schools
- **Supporting 151 adults**
- **42 older people** enjoyed our various services including working with care homes and through our Wild and Well and Adventure Day-Trip programmes.
- Our Stay Wild at Home programme supported a further **40 care home residents** across Aberdeenshire.



HABITAT RESTORATION

Wild Things has continued to work with our partners at the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative to control the proliferation of Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam on the lower Findhorn river.

The dedication of local volunteers and committed staff team enabled Wild Things to maintain our protection of the lower Findhorn River from a multitude of invasive non-native species.

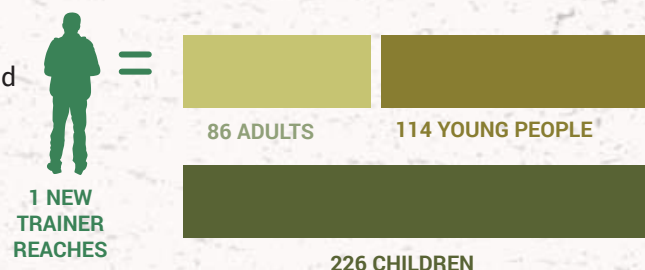


ACCREDITED TRAINING

In 2021 we were able to resume a full schedule of training whilst at the same time developing all new e-learning services. Additionally, our woodland and Coastal Activity Leader Training courses both received Professional Recognition from the General Teaching Council for Scotland. Highlights this year include:

ISSUING
89 NEW OUTDOOR TRAININGS

Our surveys show that, on average, each graduate goes on to share their newly gained skills and knowledge with over 400 people:





THANK YOU

Our work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our funders and supporters. We would like to say a huge thank you for making our important work happen.



Our Funders in 2021

Adapt and Thrive Fund, Agnes Hunter Trust, Barrack Trust, Beatrice Partnership Fund, Corra Foundation, EB Scotland – Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Gordon Fraser Trust, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Heritage Fund, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Moray Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, Moray Council, Outdoor Education Recovery Fund, Southern Energy (SSE), The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, The Grocers Charity, The Robertson Trust and The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).



Our other Supporters and Partners in 2021

Primary Schools – Glass, Holm, East-End, Hopeman, Pilmuir, Lhanbryde, Raigmore and Deshar Primary Schools.

Secondary Schools – Elgin Academy, Forres Academy, Lossiemouth High School and Inverness Royal Academy.

Further Education – University of the Highlands and Islands.

Care Homes – Cathay Care Home, Fairview House, Kirkburn Court Care Home, Kynnaire Care Home and Lethen Park Care Home.

Others: Altyre & Logie Estate, Ballindalloch Castle/Estate, Cullerne Garderns group, Findhorn Church of Scotland, Findhorn Village Centre, Findhorn, Nairn and Lossiemouth Fisheries Trust, Forestry and Land Scotland, Forres Action Community Trust, Forres Community Woodland Trust, Forres Outreach, Hillcrest House, Findhorn Hinterland Trust, Innes Estate, John Muir Awards, Kilravock Estate, Moray Way Association, New Findhorn Association, Quarriers, Scripture Union, Spey Fisheries, Trees for Life, WDC Whale and Dolphin Conservation.



Wild things!

Findhorn Village Centre
Church Place
Findhorn, Forres
Moray IV36 3YR

Tel: 01309 690450

Email: enquiries@wild-things.org.uk

www.wild-things.org.uk

Scottish charity no: SC034873
Company no: SC251691



Gordon Fraser
Charitable Trust



HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



THE HUGH FRASER
FOUNDATION

