

Quarterly Community Newsletter

Reiss · Killimster · Sibster · Keiss · Nybster · Lyth · Ackergill · Papigoe · Staxigoe · Noss

JANUARY-MARCH 2022 | ISSUE ONE

SINCLAIR'S BAY TRUST

Improving and developing Sinclair's Bay as a place to live, work and visit.

Web: www.sinclairsbay.co.uk

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Find us on Facebook & Instagram



"A development trust in Sinclair's Bay...? What's that all about anyway?"

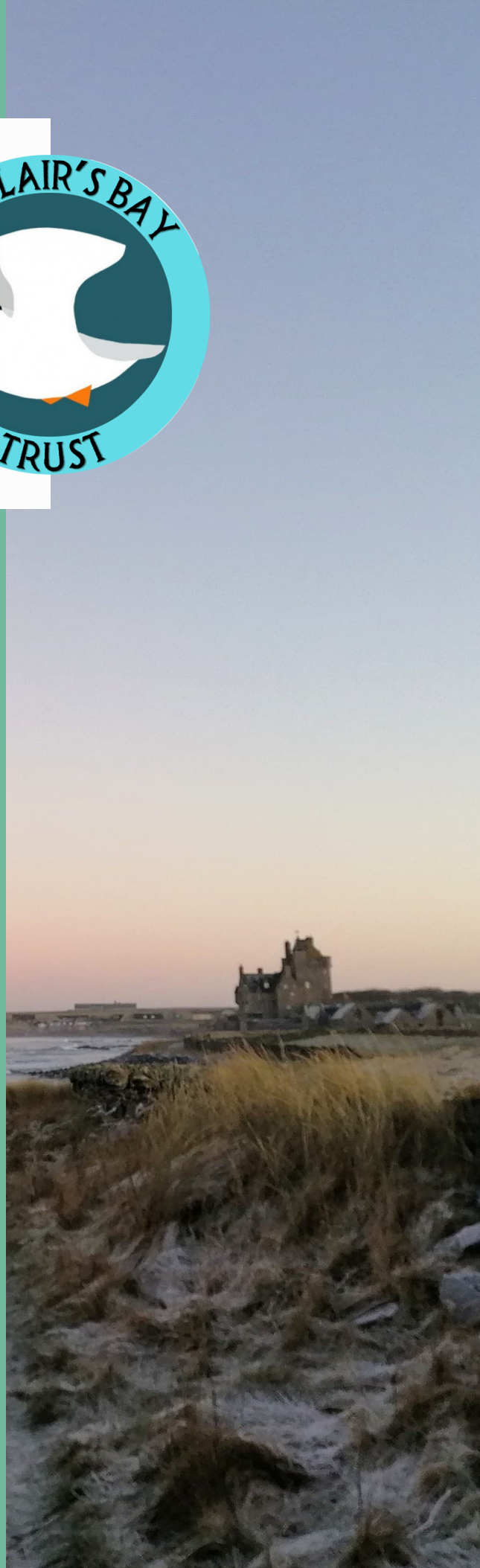
Believe it or not, a development trust for Sinclair's Bay has been in the pipeline for a few years. In 2017, a community action plan was commissioned by Sinclair's Bay Community Council to explore, identify and outline the community's needs and aspirations. Fast forward to 2019, postcards were delivered to every household in Sinclair's Bay inviting them to an initial meeting to understand the role that a development trust could play in Sinclair's Bay. Interested parties signed up to form a board and have been working away in the background ever since! Sinclair's Bay Trust (SBT) was officially formed and registered with Companies House in December 2020, is in the process of securing charity status and is an affiliated member of the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS).

DTAS defines a development trust as a "community-owned and led organisation, working to combine community-led action with an enterprising approach to address and tackle local needs. The aim of a development trust is to create social, economic and environmental renewal in a defined geographical area." Development trusts are "popping up" across Scotland to "enable communities to make their own plans and aspirations a reality".

SBT's mission statement, "improving and developing Sinclair's Bay as a place to live, work and visit", sums up the overarching goal of the trust. The trust, led by a voluntary board of Sinclair's Bay residents, is community-led. One of the first tasks undertaken in February 2020 was a community consultation. We received 99 responses to our electronic, paper and village hall surveys and the findings were combined with the community action plan to provide an up-to-date overview of needs, priorities, visions and aspirations which were used to create some initial project action plans. Our initial priorities for the period 2021-2022 are:

- Setting up Sinclair's Bay Trust (find out more on pg 2)
- Sinclair's Bay Connections Project (find out more on pg 4)
- Keep Sinclair's Bay Beautiful Project (find out more on pg 4)
- Sinclair's Bay History & Heritage (find out more on pg 3)

We strive to be a trust which remains community-led and -driven, creating real, lasting change in Sinclair's Bay to improve and develop the area. We are supported by Caithness Voluntary Group who received funding to employ development trust support officer, Alistair Jack. We share Alistair with a number of other neighbouring trusts (John O'Groats Development Trust, Wick Development Trust, Thrumster Community Development Association and Dunbeath & Berriedale Development Trust). We are delighted to have Alistair on board to support and drive projects forward!



A few words from Alistair: "I am delighted to be working with Sinclair's Bay Trust. It has a clear vision & direction on how it wants to improve Sinclair's Bay for current & future generations. I look forward to supporting the Trust with their fabulous community initiatives & I am confident we will deliver projects that the residents of Sinclair's Bay can be proud of."

Introducing the SBT board

Maysie Calder
(Chair)

Pat Ramsay
(Vice-Chair)

Christina Calder
(Vice-Chair)

Ian Ross
(Vice Chair)

Maria Aitken
(Secretary)

Andrew Mackay
(Treasurer)

Grant Ramsay
(Board Member)

Lynsay Rosie
(Board Member)

Emma Fraser
(Board Member)

Hello from our Chair, Maysie Calder:

Hello and welcome! Can I say how delighted I am to see our first newsletter being published and very excited to get the first edition out to everyone. A little about myself I have lived most of my life here in Caithness and absolutely LOVE our County with its breath-taking scenery, outstanding, atmospheric landscapes steeped in history with every step you take. I am very interested in history and the environment, but realise how important employment, education, health care and tourism is within our County. I have been behind the creation of Sinclair's Bay Trust (SBT) since 2016, not long after becoming an elected community council member. When I became a member of the community council (CC) I quickly realised that some of the aims and aspirations of our community did not belong within the function of a CC (although the CC is an important conduit between the community and the Highland Council and partnerships, it didn't really have the flexibility to go big and deliver projects that would enable the long term sustainability for our community). Unlike other areas, our boundary didn't quite "cash in" on windfarm money in the early days and so we were very lucky to be awarded funds via CARES to commission a long term action plan for our area which built the foundations of SBT. It has been a very long and rewarding journey to get to where we are today I am enormously proud of the team who have come together with representation from all ends of our area. I am passionate and committed to working hand in hand with you, our community, to make our area a better place to live, work and visit. Our door is always open and you are very welcome to make contact with us to provide constructive feedback and ideas. I and the team look forward to getting out there and meeting some of you in our up and coming projects. Until then, take care.

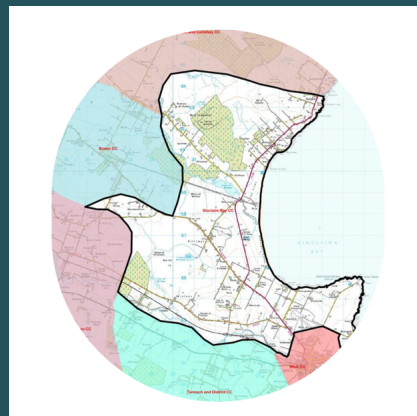
The SBT Logo



You might be wondering where we got the inspiration from for the SBT logo...

During an early board meeting for the trust, we realised that the outline of our area resembled a bird.

Do you agree? See the map below! We thought this was a great starting point for a logo idea...



...After some consideration, we settled on an arctic tern, a common breed of bird found along the bay area. We teamed the tern with a blue colour palate to represent our coastal connection.

The Sinclair's Bay Trust logo was designed by local resident & Wick High pupil, John T. Mackay.

We hope you like the SBT logo as much as we do!



L-R: Christina Calder, Emma Fraser, Lynsay Rosie, Andrew Mackay, Pat Ramsay, Maysie Calder, Grant Ramsay, Maria Aitken & Ian Ross

Our board is made up of Sinclair's Bay residents. Each brings a wealth of experience, skills and knowledge to the trust from areas such as community work, project management, the charity/voluntary sector, tourism, hospitality, health & social care, education and fundraising. The role of board membership is undertaken on voluntary, unpaid capacity. While we're a committed and passionate board, we all have other roles, commitments and jobs (please bare this in mind in terms of expectations around project delivery timescales... The trust isn't as fast paced as we'd like, but rest assured we wouldn't have signed up if we weren't willing to put some hours in!) Together, alongside our community, we hope to deliver projects which improve Sinclair's Bay as a place to live, work and visit!



CAITHNESS AT WAR



SINCLAIR'S BAY HISTORY & HERITAGE.

Our vision is to preserve, protect, celebrate and promote the historical significance of the area and to bring history to life for our community and visitors. One of the first projects we are taking forward is about our Second World War history, so we are excited to announce our intention to create a 'Caithness At War' trail around Sinclair's Bay.

The trail will initially focus on sites or events of significant importance during the war and is being launched in collaboration with Wick Development Trust who plans to continue the trail into Wick.

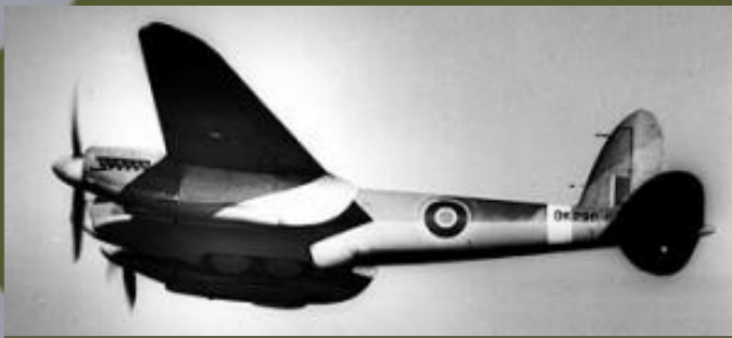
The initial aim of the project was to protect and showcase the remaining World War Two structures around Sinclair's Bay, but it has grown into a much larger project.



Anti-tank 'Dragons Teeth' at Keiss beach.

We are also in the process of developing an Augmented Reality App (AR) that you can download for free, and will generate a virtual experience at 8 of the 16 designated sites on the trail.

AR is an exciting new technology that merges the real world with the virtual world, and our App will allow users to interact with computer generated 3D experiences to bring history to life on their smart phone or tablet.



de Havilland Mosquito of the Top Secret 618 Squadron that flew from RAF Skitten.

The trail has been designed as an educational tool to tell the story of how important Caithness was during the war and how close we were to being invaded by the Germans.

It will stretch from Keiss to Noss Head and will have extremely detailed and accurate information panels at 16 locations, with QR codes linking back to a 'Caithness At War' website where you will be able to read more information or watch interesting videos.

A Caithness At War Facebook page has also been set up which is receiving a lot of interest from around the county. fascinating information and stories about what happened at RAF Skitten and RAF Wick during the war are being posted daily, so this is definitely worth having a look at and following the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/354073943195726>

CAITHNESS AT WAR

OPERATION FRESHMAN

Quite early in the war Germany was known to be working towards the creation of an atomic bomb. A critical component of atomic research in the USA was the Manhattan Project which was a top secret project which was run by a committee of senior nuclear physicists. The Manhattan Project at Hanford in America had been producing heavy water for some time using methods known from its early development in Germany, and the Germans began to target a number of these sites during the war. It was believed that they would use a Whitehall Glider to deliver a large quantity of heavy water to the site. The Whitehall Glider was a small aircraft which was designed to be used to transport heavy water across the sea. It was a small aircraft which was designed to be used to transport heavy water across the sea. It was a small aircraft which was designed to be used to transport heavy water across the sea.

Two days later, at 1.30 pm, ten Heinkel He 111 bombers each carrying two gliders and 10 Royal Engineers were sent up into the sky above the Caithness coast for the first time. The gliders were released from the bombers and fell into the sea. The gliders were released from the bombers and fell into the sea. The gliders were released from the bombers and fell into the sea.

Unfortunately, the Heinkel He 111s were shot down by the RAF. The gliders were released from the bombers and fell into the sea. The gliders were released from the bombers and fell into the sea. The gliders were released from the bombers and fell into the sea.

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Approx 55 Heinkel He 111 bombers were used during Operation Freshman on 19th November 1942.

THIS IS A SINCLAIR'S BAY TRUST AUGMENTED REALITY SITE

Download the app for free on the App Store or Google Play.

AR SITE 5

Information panel for Operation Freshman

The first information panels and App have been kindly funded by the Caithness Beatrice Community Fund, and we are currently in discussions with landowners and the planning department regarding the information panels, but if all goes well we hope to have the trail established by this summer.

Sinclair's Bay Connections Project

Vision: To better connect the Sinclair's Bay community via development/improvement of paths/networks; To establish & foster a Sinclair's Bay identity in the community across the area.

One thing that became clear from our community consultation was a need to better connect the Sinclair's Bay area and create a sense of identity within Sinclair's Bay. At the moment, we are still exploring this, but have started to make some steps towards creating a sense of connection within Sinclair's Bay through setting up the Trust itself, our annual pumpkin hunt and our Sinclair's Bay: My Home competition.

The Sinclair's Bay Trust Annual Pumpkin Hunt: You might have noticed pumpkins popping up in windows in the run up to Hallowe'en for our second annual pumpkin hunt! Each village had pumpkins with letters to find to spell out something spooky! Our hunters sent their entries in and winners were picked at random to receive a £20 voucher for The Little Hope Toy Shop.

Winners were:

Reiss: Harry Heaton

Keiss: Katie Polson

Staxigoe/Papigoe: Ayla McAllan!

Well done to all of our hunters!



WANTED: Your recipes

We're keen to create a Sinclair's Bay recipe book containing the recipes of our community. If you are from Sinclair's Bay or live here, we'd love for you to share your favourite recipe (or recipes)! You might have a traditional Sinclair's Bay recipe, a recipe for a dish from further afield or simply a recipe that creates a really tasty dish or a delicious treat!

Send your recipe(s) in to us by e-mail or give your recipe(s) any of our board members. Don't forget to include your name!



Join the Trust

We've got a nice little membership growing, but we'd love to have more of you join us. Like all Trusts, we rely on our members and volunteers to help us on our journey. We can't make Sinclair's Bay a better place to live, work and visit without our community. If you'd like to simply show your support (which will help SBT to get funding), keep up to date with what's going on or get involved and join us on a subgroup for one of our projects, please join us! Our joining form can be found on our website: www.sinclairsbay.co.uk

What's next...?

We're delighted to be developing our connections projects in a variety of ways! Follow our social media and/or join the trust to keep up to date! From April-June we will be working alongside Lyth Arts Centre (LAC) on phase 2 of their CAIR (Caithness Artists in Residence) initiative. SBT will be working with LAC, an artist/creative practitioner and the community to explore the Sinclair's Bay community identity, foster new connections & support wellbeing. We hope you'll get involved!

Keep Sinclair's Bay Beautiful Project

Vision: To reduce impact through responsible use of outdoor spaces by locals and visitors; To celebrate and protect the beauty of the area; To promote what the area has to offer for locals and visitors.

Sinclair's Bay: My Home Competition

In April 2021 we held a competition for our community and we asked you all to get creative. The theme was anything goes - to be as creative as you like and celebrate/showcase the best of living in Sinclair's Bay! We certainly weren't disappointed with the response - we received photos, paintings, stories, and poetry. All entries can be seen on the gallery section of our website. Winning entries were:

Primary School Category

- Caalin Rosie (1st equal) £20 Reiss
- William Ross (1st equal) £20 Reiss
- Rory Davidson (2nd) £10 Staxigoe

Teen / High School Category

- Murray Mackay (1st) £20 Ackergill
- Beth Ross (2nd) £10 Reiss
- Charley Laverty (2nd) £10 Keiss

Adult Category

- Fiona Mackay (Footsteps) (1st) £20 Papigoe (pictured below in our Keep Sinclair's Bay Beautiful signage)
- Ian Nicolson (2nd) £10 Staxigoe (pictured above)

The winning entry in our adult category - a photo of footsteps in the sand at Sinclair's Bay was used (with permission) as one of two signs we designed to promote our key message: Keep Sinclair's Bay Beautiful! We're sure you've seen them around our community by now!



#keepsinclairsbaybeautiful

In 2022, we're keen to continue to promote a message of responsibility and respect. But we also want to take things a step further... Find out more below. **We need you!**

Did you have a new year's resolution to get more involved in your community? We're keen to establish an informal volunteer scheme across Sinclair's Bay. We're working alongside Sinclair's Bay Community Council who are in the process of sourcing community sheds and equipment for equipment for the villages of Reiss, Keiss & Staxigoe and we're keen to get our community on board to help us keep Sinclair's Bay Beautiful! We don't mind how much or little time you can commit, whether you're a dab hand or just fancy lending a hand to your community. If you're keen to spend a wee bit of time outdoors and help us to maintain and tidy up the area, we would love to hear from you and we'll send you a wee bit more information.

