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### **The BIG TENT FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES TWO YEAR PLAN**

Scotland's leading green festival, The Big Tent, today announced its new two year development plan which will mean that Big Tent takes a sabbatical in 2011, returning anew for 2012

The decision comes on the back of a very successful event last summer which attracted more than 11,000 people – the highest number since the festival was launched in 2005.

Central to the new strategy is to focus on the next Big Tent, which will be held in July 2012, allowing organisers the time to make improvements to the site in order to further enhance Scotland's greenest festival.

This work will include installing compost toilets and solar showers as well as looking at a range of other ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the festival.

Organisers of The Big Tent, Falkland Centre for Stewardship stress that there will still be an array of family-friendly activities taking place in Falkland this summer, including nature club's for children, summer schools, craft and wood workshops, talks and walks.

David Corner, Chair of Falkland Stewardship Trust said it has become essential to take time during 2011 to focus on developing the site and the overall future direction of The Big Tent.

"We have almost become victims of our own success - in 5 years we have grown Big Tent to the point where our limited resources are in danger of not being able to deliver the high quality family festival for which we are famed. We will use 2011 to take stock, improve the site infrastructure and to plan a more congruent Big Tent festival for 2012".

Started in 2005 as a response to the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, The Big Tent has grown to become Fife's largest festival and as the flagship event for the Falkland Centre for Stewardship, has been a major force in spreading the environmental message of the Centre.

Helen Lawrenson, Centre Director, said "We had over 11,000 people attending Big Tent 2010 and we were proud to be one of the lead events in Celebrating Fife. As the home of Stewardship in Scotland the festival has allowed us to inform and entertain in equal measure and we now have a bedrock of over 1,000 active supporters and volunteers who we hope will help us shape the future and plan for the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – the dates of the next Big Tent."

Set in the beautiful designed landscape of Falkland Estate, The Big Tent has gained the reputation for having the best food on the festival circuit – and with burgers from Falkland's own organic beef herd the produce could not be more local.

Neil Anderson, Transitional Steward at Falkland Centre for Stewardship concluded “ Our focus on local and sustainable food systems is exemplified by the catering at Big Tent and the income generated by our stall holders feeds back into the Fife economy. Big Tent is only one part of what we do and so we will use this year to focus on a number of other projects which will help us be even better prepared for Big Tent 2012.”

For all the latest news on the Falkland Centre for Stewardship join them on Facebook or check out their web site – [www.centreforstewardship.org.uk](http://www.centreforstewardship.org.uk)(Ends)

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