

## **Press Release from Strathardle Trading CIC**

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Last weekend there were double celebrations at Kirkmichael Village Shop, which is approaching its third anniversary as a Community Interest Company.

Kirkmichael Village Shop was presented with the Best Village Shop / Post Office Award by the Scottish Countryside Alliance. The judges praised the villagers of Kirkmichael for coming together to form a community enterprise to run their shop and petrol pump and keep these vital services in their remote Highland Perthshire community.

Presenting the awards, Enterprise Minister Fergus Ewing said: "The importance of successful businesses in rural areas cannot be underestimated. The benefits spread across communities helping them become more resilient and confident to face future challenges. Congratulations to all of tonight's winners!"

The previous week, the Shop was successful in securing £139,000 in grant funding from the Scottish Government via the Enterprise Growth Fund. Strathardle Trading Community Interest Company was awarded the money to enable them to buy the building that the shop is currently renting, upgrade the fuel forecourt, improve the insulation of the building and create another part-time job.

Sally Gingell, a director of Strathardle Trading CIC, said: "Receiving this grant is a fantastic boost to us. Our aim is to provide a sustainable and viable village store, petrol station and Post Office at the heart of our community. The award will enable us to provide a secure foundation for the business and so that we can continue to develop our services. Thank you to all staff and volunteers and to the people of the Strathardle area who have helped us achieve what we have over the past 3 years"

Finance secretary and local MSP John Swinney said: "I'm pleased to see the Enterprise Growth Fund delivering support to Scotland's third sector organisations. They create employment opportunities, improve our public services and at the same time reach out to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The Enterprise Growth Fund is a great way to help these organisations become sustainable and reach their full potential in the current economic climate."