**Membership of Nairn Community & Arts Centre**

As a means of securing and developing the Centre as a long-term asset to the Community of Nairn the Board of Directors have raised a Notice of intent to secure a Community Asset Transfer (CAT), to take ownership of the building from Highland Council.

The Centre opened in 2007, with a 25-year lease from Highland Council which included a year-on-year grant funding commitment.

The plan was that by the end of the lease to be completely financially independent and that ownership would be transferred to the Board. Unfortunately, as a consequence of Highland Council budget savings, grant funding was reduced from 2011/12 and finally withdrawn in 2017/18. It became obvious this plan would no longer be possible.

At present the Board are responsible for all the care and maintenance of the building which after 15 years remains in a good state of repair. The negative side of this is that all the responsibility for the upkeep lies with the Board, but without ownership of the building, funding avenues are very much restricted.

To enable us to move forward with the CAT application, a change is required to our governance structure to include “members”. A minimum of twenty members are required to meet this conditional change.

We see this as an opportunity to invite our loyal “users” who already support us to have an opportunity to influence the development of the Centre.

Membership entitles you to influence the future direction of the Centre and vote on matters put forward by the Board. Membership status does not carry any form of liability and should not be onerous.

We encourage you to come onboard as a “member” and help ensure the Centre remains an asset for the Community of Nairn, by completing the attached form.

If you have any questions, please initially contact Sam at the Centre on 01667 453476 or email sam@nairncc.co.uk