

In your
P&J today

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Unsettled with
cloudy skies and
heavy rain.

Max: 8c Min: 5c
Full forecast on
page 45

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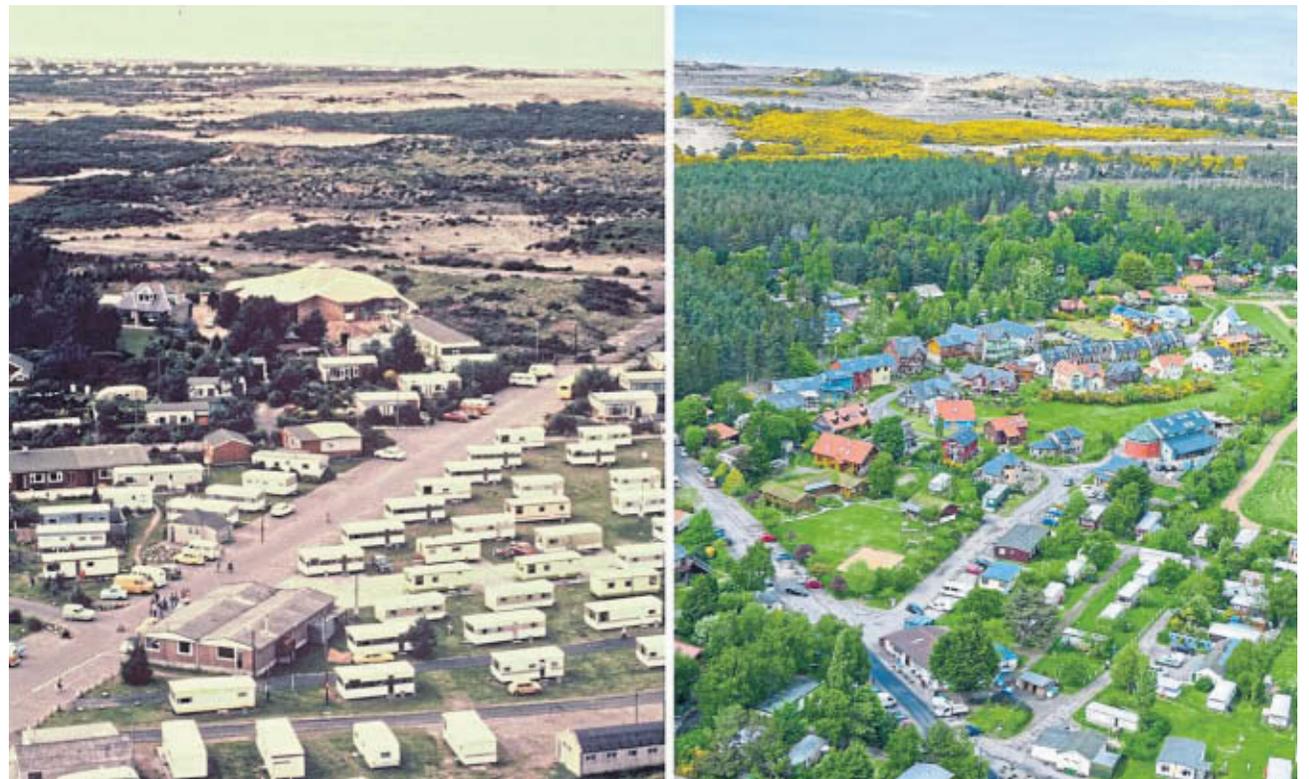
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From one caravan to a thriving eco spiritual village



COMMUNITY: The settlement is celebrating 60 years, in which time, it has grown from one caravan to 500 residents.

SEAN MCANGUS

From a caravan park to a thriving international settlement, the Findhorn community is celebrating 60 years.

In November 1962, Peter and Eileen Caddy and their friend, Dorothy Maclean, lost their jobs running the Cluny Hill Hotel in Forres and another hotel in the Trossachs.

Then they moved into a cramped caravan, with the couple's three children, near Findhorn.

Where they pitched went on to become the home of the Findhorn eco-village. Now, 500 people live there permanently, with the aim of existing more in harmony with each other and with nature.

Jonathan Caddy, son of Eileen and Peter, lived in the community for more than half his life.

Jonathan said: "It's been a privilege to witness the miraculous things that have happened here over the last six decades.

"We parked the caravan in a small hollow in a desolate caravan park – now it's a vibrant and ever-evolving community.

"To have the world coming to my backyard while I was growing up, to the caravan where I was born, is unbelievable."



Peter and Eileen Caddy, along with their colleague, Dorothy Maclean.

The retired schoolteacher added: "It's been an amazing adventure. They say it takes a village to raise a child – I've had a diverse and talented village that has moulded who I am.

"This is a small place in many respects, but it's been a catalyst for change in many spheres worldwide."

The trio went on to create a productive vegetable garden, including 40-pound cabbages, amid a wasteland of sand and gravel.

At the time their only income was an unemployment benefit.

The community grew to become the UK's biggest eco-village.

The original caravan remains exactly where it was parked on November 17 1962, surrounded by the garden that helped grow the community.

In 1972, the Findhorn Foundation was founded to run educational courses and workshops.

Thousands have attended its events, coming from all over the world.

Peter Caddy died in 1994 and Eileen in 2006.

In 2020, Dorothy Maclean passed away, three months after her 100th birthday.

In 1998, the foundation was recognised by the United Nations as a non-government organisation.

The following year it was granted consultative status at the UN.

The Living Machine was the first water-treatment system of its kind in Europe. Wind turbines have been supplying the site since 1989. At times they feed energy back into the national grid.

Some residents even live in recycled whisky barrels and others in eco-builds harnessing the latest thinking in energy use.