

Community Led Local Development Fund



2022-23

Foreword

From youth groups, foodbanks and community centres to local museums, marine nature reserves and tartan makers the Community Led Local Development Fund has helped groups across the Borders in 2022-23. All funding decisions are made by the Scottish Borders Local Action Group (LAG). The funding comes from Scottish Ministers and is administered on the LAG's behalf by Scottish Borders Council.

Over £375,000 was given out to a total of 42 projects, 21 funded by the LAG and 21 funded by the Youth LAG.



Carlops Community Garden Group

Front Cover

Berwickshire Swap; Re-Tweed - International Tartan Project;
Kelso Community Larder

LAG and CLLD overview

The Scottish Borders Local Action Group is made up of local residents and organisations dedicated to improving life for those living in the Borders. The LAG is open to local people or organisations to apply to join.

The LAG members during 2022-23 came from the following backgrounds:



The LAG seeks to improve life locally by amongst other activities distributing funds to local organisations for projects in the Borders. For over 20 years the LAG has distributed funds initially for the European Union and since leaving the EU for the Scottish Government. The LAG is one of 21 in rural Scotland and over 400 across Europe dedicated to giving rural areas a voice and responding to local needs.

The Fund's Approach

The LAG decided to continue the previous year's Rural Communities Testing Change Funding innovative approach but to further develop it. This used the [Human Learning Systems](#) which is an alternative approach to public management which embraces the complexity of the real world, and enables people to work effectively in that complexity, rather than seeking simplistic solutions.

Under the approach the LAG and staff work with applicants to co-develop the application process and their projects. The success of the approach can be judged by interest in the approach from across the UK and from the positive feedback from applicants, which was sought at all stages in the process.

The feedback given has been used to refine the CLLD Grant process in 2023-24



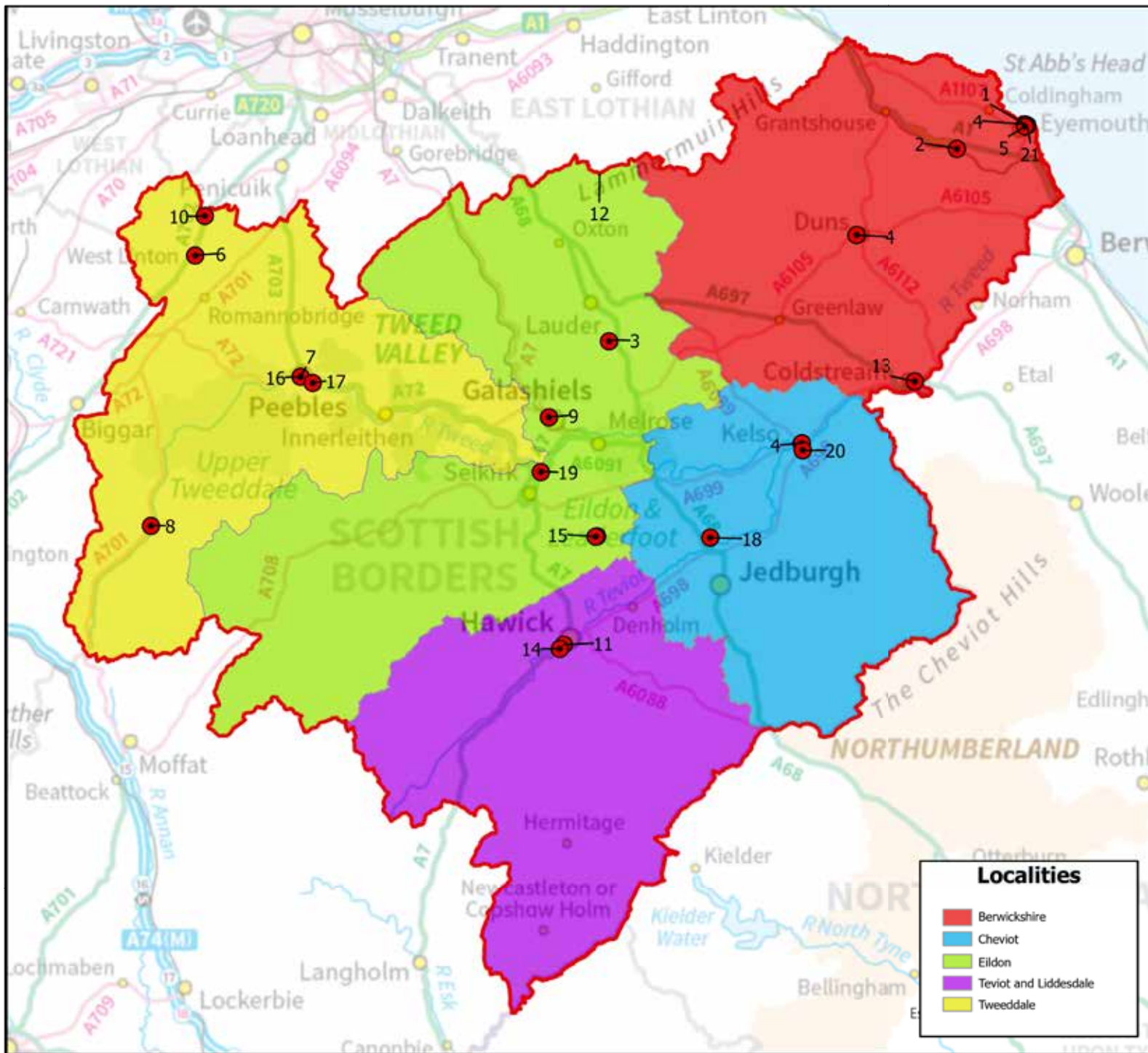
What Scottish Borders Local Action Group set out to deliver in 2022-23

Based on an assessment of needs in the 4536 square kilometre area of the Borders, the LAG decided it would concentrate its funds on the four areas identified as being most needed:

- **Cost of Living Crisis** – the LAG chose to support existing organisations assisting with the cost of living crisis
- **Climate Crisis** – the LAG continued to support organisations looking to tackle environmental issues
- **Covid recovery** – Cultural organisations were identified by the LAG as needing additional support due to the effects of Covid and the lockdowns.
- **Inclusive Growth** – Support for fair treatment and pay for work continued to be a focus of the LAG’s funding

The LAG awarded funding to the following in 2022-23

Area of Need	Number of Projects Funded	Total Value of Grants
Poverty Alleviation	7	£135,804
Climate Change and Net-Zero	7	£85,929
Cultural Sector Recovery	4	£97,555
Inclusive Growth	3	£34,211



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1:500,000

 Scottish Borders
 COUNCIL
 Community Led Local Development
 (CLLD) Fund:
 Approved Projects 22/23

No. Project Name

- 1 LINKS Information Sessions
- 2 Berwickshire Swap Winter Boost Programme
- 3 Tim Stead – Memory Bank
- 4 Composting Toilets for Community
- 5 Community Led Marine Biodiversity Monitoring
- 6 Community Tree Raising to Restore an Ancient Woodland
- 7 Food Punks Go Low and Slow
- 8 Wee Crook Community Café
- 9 Operation Manager/Business Support
- 10 Cultivate & Create
- 11 Warm Winter
- 12 Creative Business Works (Region Wide)
- 13 Ready, Steady, Bake!
- 14 Hawick Reivers Festival 2023 – Preparation & Marketing
- 15 Leaf Green Growing Group
- 16 School Brae Hub Upgrade of Heating System
- 17 Final Inclusion and Fresh Food
- 18 Redevelopment Project Planning & Development Phase
- 19 Connecting Threads
- 20 Kelso Community Food Larder
- 21 International Tartan Project

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Organisation Name: Abundant Borders

Contact info: Facebook

Project Name: Composting Toilets for Community Spaces

Project Aims

Abundant Borders supports community gardens across the region. The sites at Kelso, Duns and Eyemouth are on the edge of the town, away from local amenities. The project will:

- Allow us to install composting toilets on these three sites.
- Improve the volunteering experience for our clients
- Contribute to our net zero and circular economy aspirations.
- Educate others in all aspects of composting, water use reduction and circular systems.

Grant: £9,056

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £18,688.07.
£2.04 added value for every £1 grant given

Project Achievements

- Built compost toilets in Eyemouth, Kelso and Duns
- Built additional storage for accessories (which will also be used to allow community members to access surplus produce, books, seeds, plants and recipe cards for the gardens in general)
- Fitted water tanks for hand-washing in the toilets
- Built accessible pathways
- Fitted rain- water collection (guttering and tanks) to service each garden during dry weather
- Kelso garden will be accessible to Dementia Friendly groups, who were unable to attend without toilet facilities
- Kelso garden expanding to include child focussed activities, not possible without compost toilets
- Duns and Eyemouth gardens accessible to local walking groups, who now add the gardens to their regular schedules. (Up to 20 additional people per visit)
- We will be able to hold festivals in all 3 gardens, to coincide with harvest
- Duns Community Playgroup able to visit the community garden

Feedback from Participants

- *Amazing to have this at the garden ... means I can stay here longer*
- *The volunteer sessions used to be just two hours, now we can stay longer*
- *This is a great so I can bring the kids*
- *When you get as old as I am it is handy to have a loo nearby*
- *I wasn't even sure what a compost toilet was, this is just like a normal toilet. It's lovely*

Organisation Name: Berwickshire Swap

Project Name: Berwickshire Swap Winter Boost Programme

Contact info: www.berwickshireswap.co.uk

Facebook: @berwickshireswap

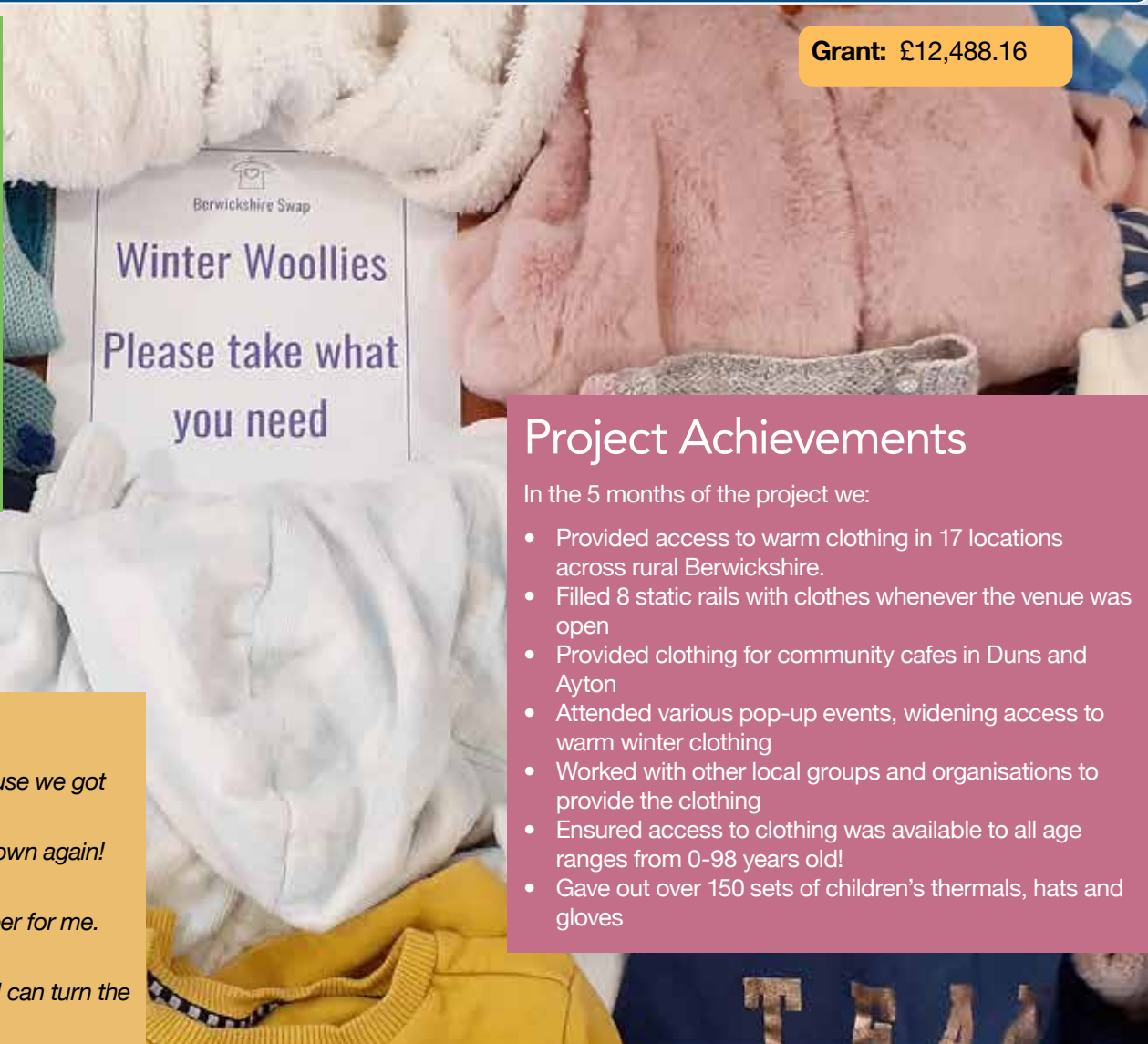
Twitter: @berwickswap

Project Aims

With the Cost of living crisis growing people in Berwickshire are struggling to heat their homes due to rising costs. People are not turning the heating on when the temperature drops and resorting to finding other ways to stay warm this winter. We also have the background of a climate crisis to deal with. The aims of our winter woollies project was to:

- Support people in our local area stay warm over the winter without costing them more money.
- Make our project to ensure the people that need this help will be able to access it.
- We also want to support people make sustainable choices to stay warm.

Grant: £12,488.16



Berwickshire Swap
Winter Woollies
Please take what
you need

Project Achievements

In the 5 months of the project we:

- Provided access to warm clothing in 17 locations across rural Berwickshire.
- Filled 8 static rails with clothes whenever the venue was open
- Provided clothing for community cafes in Duns and Ayton
- Attended various pop-up events, widening access to warm winter clothing
- Worked with other local groups and organisations to provide the clothing
- Ensured access to clothing was available to all age ranges from 0-98 years old!
- Gave out over 150 sets of children's thermals, hats and gloves

Feedback from Participants

"I've not needed to buy any of my children coats this winter because we got them all from here!"

"I picked up a coat for my son here and within a month he had grown again! So, I brought it back and got a bigger one"

"I managed to get something for the children but also a new jumper for me. I don't normally get myself things, it all goes for the kids"

"My kids love the thermals they wear them as pyjamas, it means I can turn the heating down a bit and save money"

Organisation Name: Berwickshire Marine Reserve

Project Name: Community-led marine biodiversity monitoring

Contact info:

Home | Berwickshire Marine Reserve | Eyemouth

Project Aims

Only a limited amount is known about our marine environment. The aims of the project were to:

- Provide training to staff and volunteers on how to monitor the area
- Use kayaks to expand the number of people who could take part in citizen science
- Start collecting data from sub-tidal habitats to help manage the area

Grant: £8,130

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £16,658.63.

£2.05 added value for every £1 grant given

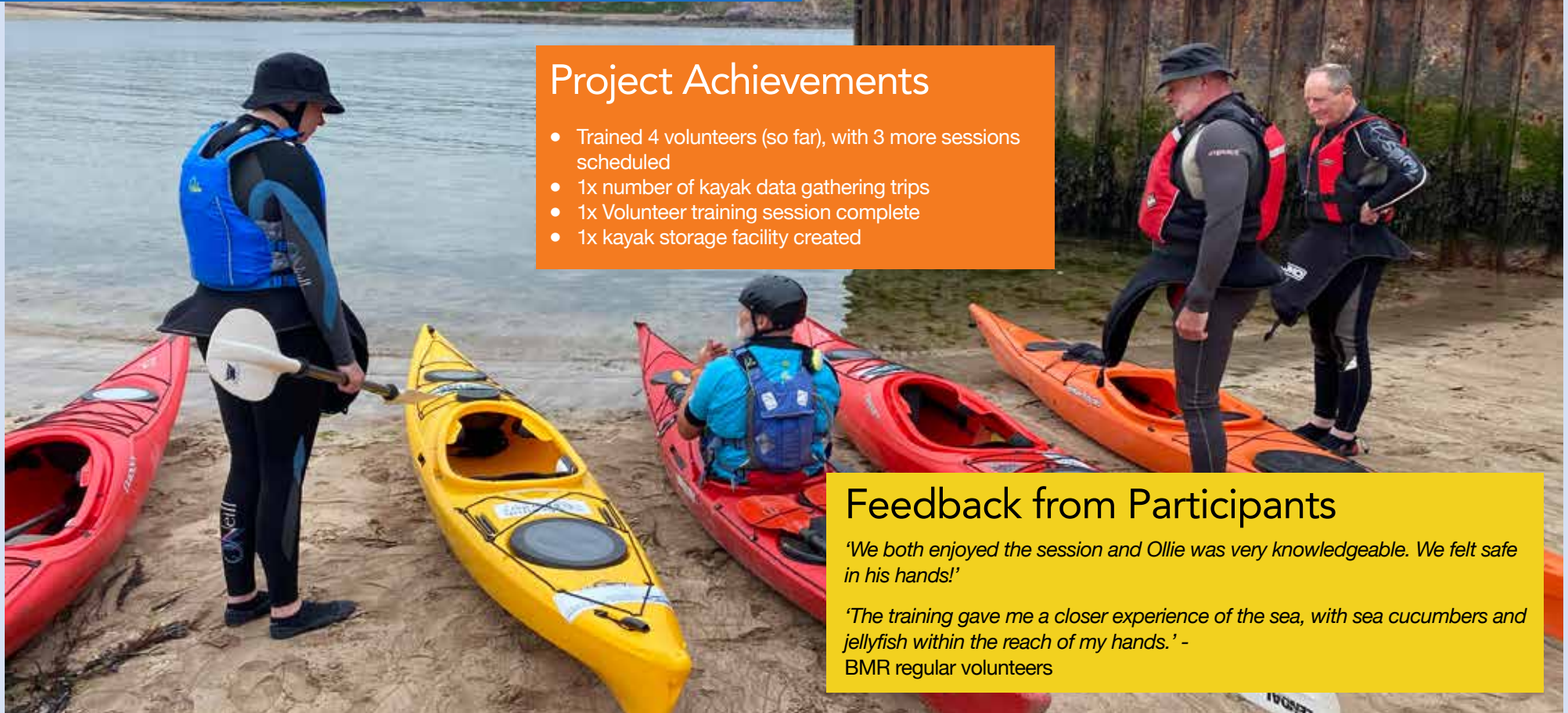
Project Achievements

- Trained 4 volunteers (so far), with 3 more sessions scheduled
- 1x number of kayak data gathering trips
- 1x Volunteer training session complete
- 1x kayak storage facility created

Feedback from Participants

'We both enjoyed the session and Ollie was very knowledgeable. We felt safe in his hands!'

'The training gave me a closer experience of the sea, with sea cucumbers and jellyfish within the reach of my hands.' -
BMR regular volunteers



Organisation Name: Café Recharge CiC

Project Name: Business Support

Contact info: <https://www.facebook.com/caferechargeCIC>

Grant: £13,750

Project Aims

Café Recharge CiC is a surplus food cafe in Galashiels operating on a Pay What You Can model to reduce the gap between food poverty and food waste. We provide a social meeting space for all members of the community with the aims of reducing social isolation, food insecurity and food waste.

Due to demand, we were struggling to keep up with the growth of our project and staff were not being utilised to the best of their abilities. We needed experts to review, streamline and improve our business operations and to enable us to run more efficiently allowing us to concentrate more on the innovation and progression of the project. After inviting tenders to find the right candidates Cafe ReCharge Directors teamed up with Vis A Vis consultancy agency from Glasgow.

Project Achievements

We now have a detailed report to use as a working document to take the cafe to the next stage in development and ensure we have a clear yet flexible pathway to follow.

With a business plan now in place we are in a strong position to move forward and concentrate our energies and time on the projects we have identified as valuable either in terms of sustainability for the Cafe, increasing our social and environmental impact and providing the best for our community.

In the last 12 months...

- 3 year Business Plan
- 3 year Detailed Workplan with specific tasks broken down into quarterly person-specific jobs
- Budget projection spreadsheets detailing finances for next 3 years
- SWOT Analysis
- Job Descriptions for members of staff needed to take social enterprise forward
- Proposed management structure and subsequent roles for directors, employees and volunteers
- Suggested funding sources and targets
- Updated policies for all staff
- Induction materials for new staff and volunteers

Feedback from Participants

In creating a place of sustenance, refuge and enjoyment for local people and visitors, Cafe ReChange has quickly made itself invaluable in the region by connecting food reuse, relationships and life skills. The journey of these two Directors serves as a model for new CiCs everywhere and is a story of intelligence, kindness and determination. Cafe ReCharge's future business plan will sustain and grow the Directors, the organisation and its impact by creating volunteer and job opportunities, and widening beneficiaries and partnerships. Every town and neighbourhood in Scotland would be lucky to have a place like it. -- Tracey Kelly, Director, Vis-à-Vis Agency



Organisation Name: Carlops Community Garden Group

Project Name: Cultivate & Create

Contact info: <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/org/public-profile/74298>

Project Aims:

The project was to create the foundation of the Carlops Community Garden in the Rock Field, a 5 acre green space, in the centre of Carlops. We asked for funding to purchase planters, soil, water butts, and an open-sided mobile field shelter. This will allow us to alongside the cultivation of vegetables and fruit, run environmental-related creative activities throughout the year in the mobile field shelter.

Our activities will be inclusive, bringing together people of different generations and abilities; designed to maximise well-being, creating health-giving social interaction after the detrimental isolation imposed by Covid.

Grant: £8,433.89

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £20,755.59.

Value to local area for each £1 given as a grant: £2.46

Feedback from Participants

"Love the planters and the colours that bloom and grow. Fabulous addition to the field and the shed is just tremendous for all the gardeners and what a super place to meet in all weathers. Looking forward to my harvest of vegetables, fingers crossed!"

"The shelter is a very welcome facility for gathering in inclement weather, storing equipment and materials for a social event. It means we don't have to keep lugging stuff from our homes every time we want to meet or work, and we can store chairs there for weary gardeners or older folk. With the planters, it provides a useful focus for activities in the field!"

"The planters mean that gardening at waist level is much, much easier, and most importantly out of reach of rabbits!"

"It's a great project and it's working really well. The meeting space has lots of possibilities. And it's a great asset to the community."

"The bee keepers meet at the apiary in The Rock Field every Sunday during the season whatever the weather, to tend to the bees, and less frequently in the winter when we do maintenance at the apiary. We use the shelter as a classroom when the weather is not suitable for opening hives, and for social gatherings after the official meetings for tea, biscuits and a chat. We also enjoy the company of other visitors to the field who drop in to find out about the bees, or just to join in the chat."

Project Achievements

- Seven local families using a planter
- Three planters being used by the community
- Growing peas, beans, salad, leeks, courgettes, broccoli, cauliflower
- Hosted a picnic for the community
- Ran two afternoons to fill the planters with soil and compost
- Found neighbours enjoying a seat and a coffee under shelter

Organisation Name: Cheviot TOGS
Project Name: Cheviot TOGS Winter

Contact info: <https://www.facebook.com/CheviotTogs>

Grant: £16,045

Project Aims

We run a children's clothing charity where we recycle good quality children's clothing and distribute it to families struggling financially. We had anticipated the rise in cost of living would impact more families and we wanted to be able to respond to demand.

We worked with health visitors, school nurses, social workers, homelessness officers, school equity officers, head teachers and Borders Women's Aid across Jedburgh, Hawick and Kelso to identify those in need

Project Achievements

During the 4 months of the project, we:

- completed 602 referrals,
- helped 450 families and
- worked with local high school to help over 37 children providing them with underwear, nightwear, coats, hats, gloves and scarves and shoes.
- Never turned anyone away!

Feedback from Participants

Thanks again this means so much to me, you helping out with my daughters.

Can't thank you enough. Thank you so much. This is really appreciated.

Many thanks for the beautiful clothing.

Many thanks for the wonderful deliveries, they are amazing and the parents are so pleased with them.

We've had a few excited children in new coats and snazzy hats and gloves today!

Thank you so much again on behalf of all of the family

Organisation Name: Creative Coathanger

Project Name: Creative Business Works

Contact info: Home (creativecoathanger.org)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/creativecoathanger
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/creativecoathanger/>

Project Aims:

Creative Business Works wants to lay foundations for practical professional training for young people and adults in the creative industries in the Scottish Borders. This sector has a large dispersed freelance workforce who were particularly hard hit by Covid.

Creative Business Works aims to:

- Run two export evenings for creatives in November 2022 and January 2023
- Raise the visibility of creative business talent in the region through a one-day Mini Festival of Creative Industries, featuring inspiring local creative business speakers
- Using Human Learning System to inform a pilot to co-design a training and apprenticeship model for local creative businesses to benefit from skillshare and offer short internships
- Provide links and content for use in school sessions, introducing creative sector business skills, in discussion with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Grant: £19,740

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £46,751.63.

Value to local area for each £1 given as a grant: £2.54

Project Achievements

The Creative Business Works Festival managed to bring together a diverse audience of creative businesses, organisations and policymakers together in one room to discuss sustainable livelihoods, the creator economy, digital technology, creatch and regeneration.

Feedback from Participants/Applicants

- 73% of the responding Festival attenders enjoyed the Creative Business Works Festival, and individuals benefited from time to reflect (62%), a good use of their time (54%) and feeling a sense of belonging in the local creative sector (50%).
- Attenders came away feeling more informed (73%), more ambitious (61%) and more connected to the local creative sector (65%). Most also felt that the local creative sector now feels stronger (62%), and that the local creative sector now feels more united (62%).
- Almost all of the responding festival attenders (96%) made connections on the day. 85% met someone new, 62% reconnected with a past contact, and 50% had the chance to meet a contact in person for the first time.
- 88% of the responding Festival attenders told us that they have plans to do something differently as a direct result of attending the Creative Business Works Festival, most often to keep in touch with someone they spoke to at the event (62%) and seeking information or advice about an issue that was raised (54%).

Organisation Name: The Frangipane Bakery

Project Name: Ready Steady Bake

Contact info:

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/the-frangipane-bakery

Instagram: www.instagram.com/frangipanebakes/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FrangipaneBakes/

Website: www.TheFrangipaneBakery.co.uk

Rachel on Linked In: www.linkedin.com/in/rachelparker/

Grant: £15,388.54

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £30,070.01

Value to local area for each £1 given as a grant: £1.54



Project Achievements

- The premises has been brought up to food standards with additional structural work
- The unit has been kitted out with a commercial kitchen including 2 turbofan ovens, commercial fridge, 6 stainless steel preparation tables and commercial washing facilities
- Created a job for the CEO and a team of four support workers
- The bakery has begun trading both direct to customers, corporate and wholesale, which once established will fund our ongoing social impact work to close the disability employment gap
- Launched 'Untapped Potential' an art exhibition highlighting the skills employers are missing out on due to their misconceptions of neurodivergence and disability
- Named Food Start Up of the Year 2023 in the Scottish Start Up Awards

Project Aims

The Frangipane Bakery wants to set up as a gluten free bakery social enterprise working to close the disability employment gap, with a particular focus on autism/neurodivergence.

We believe:

- Everyone deserves the dignity of a meaningful and worthwhile job
- People who require a gluten free diet should be able to experience the same joy from food as everyone else.

There are 3 key activities to the business:

- Baking delicious, high quality, artisan products in a dedicated gluten-free premises to prevent cross contamination.
- Bakery/employability training for autistic/neurodivergent/disabled people. Gaining bakery skills, food hygiene, allergen awareness and customer service qualifications.
- Community outreach training. Offering allergen awareness, autism acceptance and disability awareness training to other local employers to create a more inclusive hospitality sector and job market.

We have been offered a workshop premises in Coldstream. The workshop is currently an empty shell and we would like to fit it out with a commercial kitchen to allow baking to begin.

Feedback from Participants

Feedback from the bakery:

"From the outset the CLLD team have been very amenable and accommodating. They have been conscious that the funding should be supportive of the project and not overly onerous in reporting and admin requirements, whilst of course still meeting the necessary recording criteria. When changes were required to the project the grant manager has been very pragmatic and supportive to ensure we maximised the benefit of the funding"

Feedback to the bakery:

"I just wanted to drop you a little note of thanks for the what we can only describe as the amazing tray bake on Friday."
"The comments I kept hearing was it was the best they had ever tasted. I had some too and honestly... amazing... I saw a few people jot down your details. I am definitely going to be ordering some more from you." – Corporate customer
"The cakes were AMAZING yesterday (AS ALWAYS). Thank you!" – Corporate customer

Organisation Name: Hawick Reivers Association

Contact info: <https://www.hawickreivers.com/>

Project Name: 20th Hawick Reivers Festival

Project Aims:

Hawick Reivers Festival is based on the turbulent and troubled period in our history when the Borderlands were considered a wild and ungovernable area of the country where family loyalties and family feuds ruled the day.

Our 3 day event, held annually since 2003, aims to give townsfolk and visitors alike a taste of 16th Century life through music, drama, lectures, talks and re-enactments. Unfortunately Covid meant we were unable to hold the festival in 2020 and 2021 with 2022 being much reduced. So want to make the 2023 Festival extra-special as it is also a special year! (20years since the first Reivers Festival).

We want to involve a much larger contingent of re-enactors and historic craft demonstrations, bringing many extra visitors to the town and also by extending the work / input to local schools to increase their engagement with the Reivers theme

Grant: £8,500

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £18,876.56

Local Value created for every £1 in grant:
£2.22

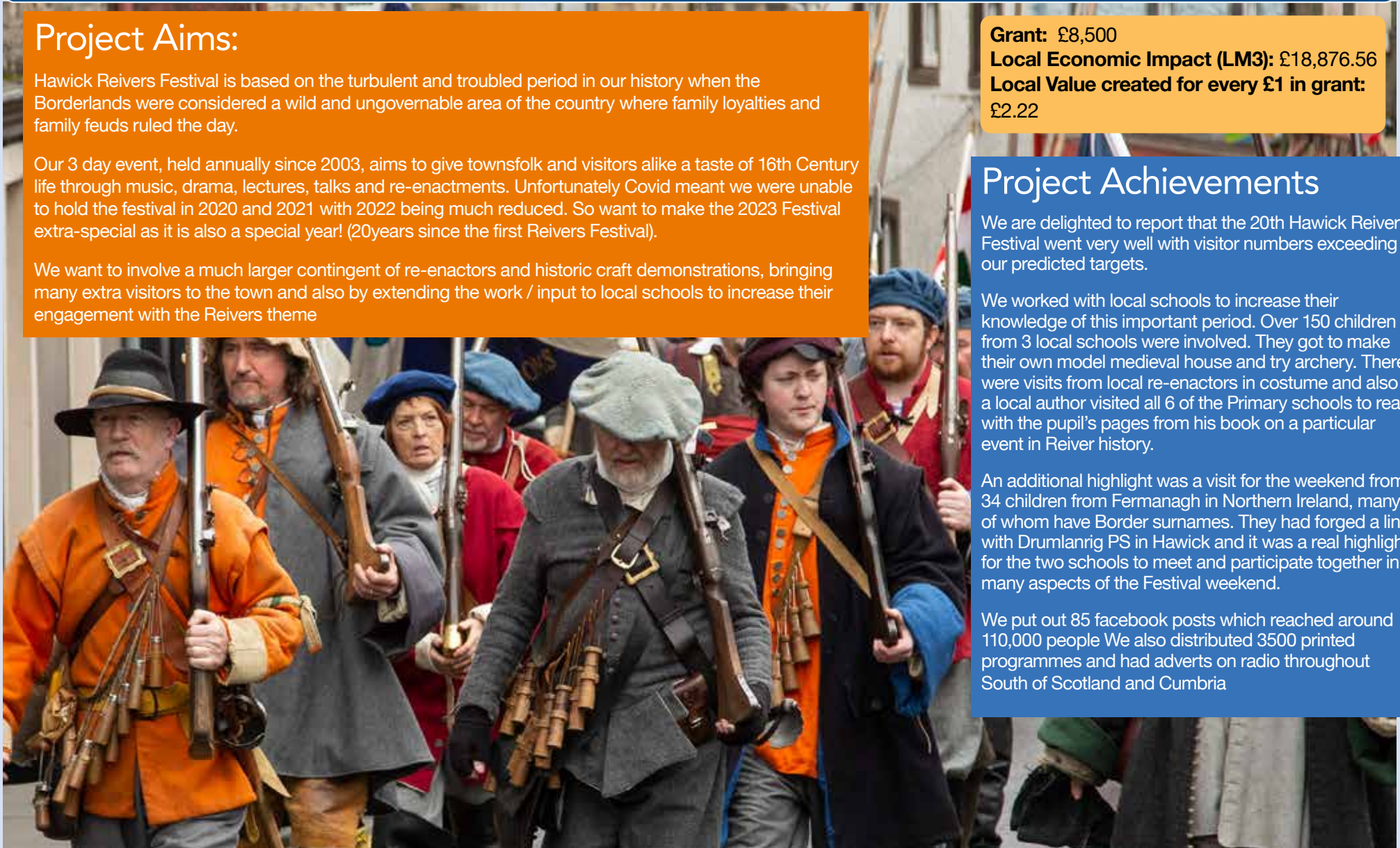
Project Achievements

We are delighted to report that the 20th Hawick Reivers Festival went very well with visitor numbers exceeding our predicted targets.

We worked with local schools to increase their knowledge of this important period. Over 150 children from 3 local schools were involved. They got to make their own model medieval house and try archery. There were visits from local re-enactors in costume and also a local author visited all 6 of the Primary schools to read with the pupil's pages from his book on a particular event in Reiver history.

An additional highlight was a visit for the weekend from 34 children from Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, many of whom have Border surnames. They had forged a link with Drumlanrig PS in Hawick and it was a real highlight for the two schools to meet and participate together in many aspects of the Festival weekend.

We put out 85 facebook posts which reached around 110,000 people We also distributed 3500 printed programmes and had adverts on radio throughout South of Scotland and Cumbria



Organisation Name: Kelso Community Council

Contact info: Facebook

Project Name: Kelso Community Larder

Project Aims

- To stop good, edible food from going to landfill. Too much food is still being wasted.
- To create a community project to help combat food poverty. Only sign-posted people could receive food from foodbanks. The larder is open to everyone.
- To combat isolation. Both customers and volunteers are able to meet in the larder without stigma.

Project Achievements

During the 4 months of the project, we:

- Arranged collections from five supermarkets and three local food retailers
- Enlisted and trained over 30 volunteers
- Located, renovated and set-up a larder within a month!
- Marketed the larder on social media and enlisted 887 followers
- And most importantly, up to beginning of June we Served
 - o almost 900 people
 - o distributed 2,100 kg of food

Grant: £35,245

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £77,646.96.
£2.20 added value for every £1 given.

Feedback from Participants

"The rush you feel when you collect trays full of perfectly good food from a supermarket – food which was on its way to landfill - is unexpectedly amazing". Volunteer G

"We are from Ukraine. Thank you! Thank you!"
Customer U

"I love seeing the community come together! So many people enjoy the little chats when they come in as well as feeling good about saving food waste!"
Volunteer D.

"I like the surprise of seeing what's available. It's giving variety to what I normally cook and gives that wonderful feeling of saving food waste at the same time." Customer S

"I like coming because I can pick up a few potatoes and other veg and I only need a small amount. Most veg in supermarkets is in plastic bags and too big

Organisation Name: Lilliesleaf Community Development Ltd

Project Name: Leaf Green Growing Group

Project Aims:

The growing sub-group had been formed only a few weeks before the grant became available. A key aim of the group is to grow food together in an organic way to promote health and wellbeing. The CLLD grant gave us an opportunity to prepare the area, and in doing this we aspired to:

- Build relationships and work together
- Share experiences and learning about the skills within our group and community
- Promote biodiversity, healthy soil and a healthy environment.
- Reuse and recycle
- Encourage participation of the wider Lilliesleaf community in any of the various aspects of the growing area
- Expand and develop partnerships with others to share learning

Feedback from Participants

'The children had a fabulous time learning how to plant fruit bushes' (of Lilliesleaf primary pupils); 'What a lovely experience' (parent of Toddlers planting gooseberry bushes); 'You have achieved such a lot in a short time. Well done' (visitors from Borders Organic Gardeners).

Grant: £6,723.56

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £13,506.56

Local Value created for every £1 in grant: £2.01

Project Achievements

Despite the challenges of a very tight timescale we worked together as a new group to prepare an area in a weedy field that is now fit for growing produce. We accomplished this in the grant's 3 month timescale that took in snow, wind and the festive Christmas season!

Almost seven months since we started we now have 8 'no dig' beds full of vegetables and fruit crops, a raspberry patch, and tomatoes and cucumbers growing in the new polytunnel. We have fruit bushes which were planted with help from the Toddlers group and the primary 1,2 and 3 pupils. We have started to harvest our salad crop, and are able to make some of this available to villagers for a small donation which we will use to buy new seeds etc.

There have been many opportunities to reuse and recycle and keep things local e.g. used water butts to capture rain water; coffee grains from the village hall tea shop for compost; wood chips from the local tree surgeon.

Organisation Name: Outside the Box

Project Name: LINKS Information Sessions

Contact info:
Website Home - [Outside the Box \(otbds.org\)](http://otbds.org)
Video LINKS Plus CLLD Outcomes | Biteable

Project Aims

Outside the Box is a small independent charity helping people to achieve the changes they want to see in their communities. It received funding to carry out information sessions across Berwickshire giving advice and practical skills to alleviate some of the increased costs due to the increase in the cost of living.

Grant: £18,879.00
Local Economic Impact (LM3): £39,847.00.
For every £1 in Grant the project had an economic impact of £2.11

Project Achievements

Over the 3 months of December 2022 to February 2023 Outside the Box reached over 200 people across Berwickshire through these activities:

- 12 Low and Slow Cooking Sessions for 16 people-partner Abundant Borders
- 4 Slow Cooking Sessions with Duns Primary (75 pupils) – partners School and Greener Duns
- 3 sessions (1 of food, 2 on clothing/fabric reuse and recycling) with 20 participants of Border links-partners Border Links, Field to Fork & ReTweed
- 1 Upcycling session in Eyemouth –partner ReTweed
- 4 Energy Efficiency roadshows for 20 participants. Partner Changeworks
- Winter Support Resource for Berwickshire containing tips on how to save money, stay warm and healthy distributed.
- Christmas Dinner Bags containing all food required -over 100 bags provided. Food purchased locally

Feedback from Participants

“I would give this 11 out of 10, it is so amazing” pupil Duns Primary

“Thank you for the radiator foil, we live in an old house so difficult to keep the heat in – this will help” participant Energy Efficiency Roadshow

“I have never had a turkey from the butcher’s before as I couldn’t afford it, this is such a treat and will make Christmas special” – recipient Christmas Dinner Bag



Organisation Name: Peebles Community Trust

Project Name: Replacement and upgrading of the heating system for the Brae Hub

Contact info:

Website <https://www.peeblescommunity.org/>

Facebook: Peebles Community Trust

Project Aims:

Refurbishment and upgrade work on our community-owned building in the heart of Peebles, purchased in 2019, is underway. Improving the energy efficiency of the building is three-pronged – insulation, replacement glazing, replacement heating. We have already completed external insulation of the roof. We are looking elsewhere for funding of replacement double glazing. The existing gas boiler hot-air ducted heating system has been condemned and we are currently without a heating system.

The CLLD funding will prepare the building by removing the existing condemned heating system and asbestos panelling and prepare the site for the new heating system. A CARES Grant will then be used to fund installation of the Net-Zero heating system

Feedback from Participants

The boiler bodies needed 4 people to remove and lift!

Photo: Cleared boiler cupboard in lower ground floor (Myriam Baete)

Grant: £19,672

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £46,485.13

Local Value created for every £1 in grant: £2.36

Project Achievements

To date we have:

- Removed the vegetation of the site where the air source heat pumps are to be installed behind the back wall of the building as well as the access area where the heat pumps will be coming in.
- Removed the tree on the site.
- Placed a weed suppressing sheet over all the area and cover with chipped wood.

Prepared the 3 areas where we need to have working access for the equipment to operate the air source heat pumps.

- Remove all the live electrical connections in those areas
- Disable to gas meter which will no longer be used
- Removal of all asbestos lining from the walls of the 2 old boiler cupboards.
- Careful removal of the very large boiler bodies and cupboard doors.

Now waiting for the final drawings for the concrete bases from the heat pumps and suppliers connecting works and ceiling finishes as well as a contribution to the ventilation system.

Organisation Name: Peeblesshire Foodbank

Project Name: Financial inclusion and fresh food

Contact info:
Website <https://peeblesshire.foodbank.org.uk/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/peeblesshirefoodbank

Project Aims

Peeblesshire Foodbank provides 3 days worth nutritionally balanced food for families and individuals in crisis. We also provide financial inclusion advice, signposting to other help and pastoral care.

At the moment, the food parcels only contains food mostly in tins or packets. During the pandemic, we provided vouchers for local independent shops (butcher/fishmonger/greengrocer) so people got fresh produce. We do not have the funds now for fresh food vouchers. We are requesting funding to resume the fresh food element to our service. We would also like to run financial advice outreach workshops headed by Citizens' Advice, on subjects like budgeting, debts and income maximisation. These would be free and run in all localities in our area.

Grant: £19,750

Feedback from Participants

'The bakery bread was something special, I felt happy to get it'

'I bought mince and sausages with the voucher, and made three meals'

'My toddler is fussy, I like being able to choose what he likes'

'I am a vegetarian and it was really great being able to get some fresh veg to go with everything else in the box'

Project Achievements

- Between November and March, we provided vouchers to 719 people which included 479 adults and 240 children. This provided fresh food from local shops, including fruits and vegetables, butcher meat and fishmonger produce.
- We were able to add fresh bread to every food parcel, a total of 1085 so far from November 2022.
- Local independent shops benefitted at a time when their overheads were rocketing with increased fuel bills. The voucher money made a real difference to their cash flow and hence our High Streets.
- Fresh food supplementing our ambient food parcels means better nutrition and a healthier diet for our clients.
- We provided Financial Inclusion information to 61 people through outreach sessions



Organisation Name: Real Wood Studios CIC

Contact info: Website www.realwoodstudios.com

Project Name: Planning and Development Phase of Redevelopment Project

Project Aims:

Our Redevelopment project aims to grow and protect the long-term future of Real Wood Studios CIC as a co-working hub facility for designer-makers using locally grown, sustainably sourced timber. Through redevelopment of our facilities, we will ensure a vibrant, high quality and nurturing facility for new and existing businesses, ensure the future of local timber production, and support a low carbon, zero waste sustainable wood culture in the Borders.

We seek funding to pay for a feasibility study into the future of the studio and its premises.

Grant: £9,650

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £34,397.72

Local Value created for every £1 in grant:
£2.47



Project Achievements

We have succeeded in moving the project forward from an abstract idea to a detailed and realisable plan.

- We have developed architect design drawings for a new exciting facility including a co-working makers hub, a gallery and visitor centre.
- Completed the feasibility phase of the project and got everything in order for the planning submission.
- With help from a specialist consultant, we have advanced our business plan, case for support and fundraising strategy.
- Created artist visualisations of the new building which help to communicate the vision.

Feedback from Participants

“This ambitious proposal represents a powerful vision for the future of Real Wood Studios, and their commitment to an ongoing legacy of high quality making. The development will cement their place in the local community, and wider wood-working community, and allow them to offer increased employment opportunities in the future. Such a high quality, sustainable building will be an extremely positive development for The Scottish Borders and should be supported by all potential stakeholders.” Dan Gibson, Gibson Architects

Organisation Name: Re-Tweed

Project Name: International Tartan Project

Contact info:
Website www.internationaltartans.co.uk
Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/itartans/>
<https://www.instagram.com/itartans/> <https://twitter.com/>

Grant: £38,086.00
Local Economic Impact (LM3): £87,966.25
Local Value created for every £1 in grant: £2.31

Project Aims

ReTweed has worked with David McGill of International Tartan for 5-years to create a range of products from his 124 Nation State, Regional and Thematic Tartans. developed specifically to facilitate community enterprise in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Sudan as well as strengthen ties between Scotland and 24 African Countries. David sadly died in 2022, bequeathing his tartans to Retweed.

We're seeking funding to launch the work of International Tartan and support our graduates as they respond to orders. We are also seeking funding to showcase our 'Tartans for Social and Humanitarian Good' - keeping the Scottish Borders on the map as a place of sustainable social enterprise and innovation in manufacturing.

Project Achievements

- Moved the manufacturing of woven tartan from England, Poland and China into the South of Scotland
- Set-up a fantastic ecommerce website with 120+ tartans and 20+ products (all tartans and all products are manufactured here in the South of Scotland)
- Rescued a potential business that would have folded and transformed it into a social enterprise providing training and employment for women from the Borders
- Delivered training to 9 women to teach them bespoke tailoring skills – giving them the knowledge and experience to make products for International Tartans and for other companies. Employed 6 out of those 9 students to manufacture products
- Initial collaboration with Africa Scotland Business Network and Scottish Malawi Partnership to develop community enterprise projects using tartans in Africa
- Developed our design service with our first commission being a tartan for the Samaritans

Feedback from Participants

"You never know what you're going to come into – there's always so much going on. There's life and energy but it's a safe place where you're accepted. I feel like my life has meaning and I'm doing something meaningful."

"Every time I come in something has changed...International Tartans is getting better and better – it's making my brain work in the way it used to – I am constantly learning new things and that is making a difference in my own life as well as when I'm here doing the tartan stuff"

I initially came to Scotland feeling like I was sofa surfing in someone else's country and just couldn't really find my place. 3 small children with additional needs in the mix and not really knowing anybody. Volunteering and now working with International Tartans gives me a sense of belonging here in Scotland like I'm really allowed to belong here – working with the tartans has meant I've learned so much about Scotland's story and it feels like part of my story now. I like the 'International' element – because that's inclusive and not exclusive.

"It's like everything I could have wished for – feel my skills have quadrupled doing this course after the basic ReTweed course"

Organisation Name: Southern Upland Partnership

Project Name: Connecting Threads

Contact info:

Website: www.sup.org.uk

Facebook: Connecting Threads:Tweed River Culture

Project Aims:

Connecting Threads is a creative placemaking project, focusing on the river Tweed rather than a centre of population. We will connect creative practitioners, conservationists, environmentalists, scientists and river specialists with communities, to celebrate and protect the river through cultural activity which seeks to effect positive change. Connecting Threads sits within a larger infrastructure project, Destination Tweed (Tweed Forum) which will create a continuous trail along the Tweed, with other projects (archaeological, educational and environmental) running in parallel.

We seek CLLD funding to cover the start-up phase of the project. Between start-up and the end of February we will run an artist's residency, ten creative workshops and a River Celebration (mini festival) for the Upper Tweed area (source to Innerleithen), plans and staff for which are already in place. We will recruit three more members of staff. New staff will develop their own programmes for Middle (Innerleithen to Kelso) and Lower (Kelso to Berwick) Tweed.

NB We subsequently agreed not to undertake recruitment, as we had not secured enough funding overall to be able to offer secure long-term contracts. However, during the period of the CLLD grant, another grant application was successful, which meant that recruitment was able to go ahead.

Feedback from Participants

From River Celebrations -

"The children really enjoyed the area Katie had set out for this session. We could hear the river bubbling, birds singing and trees swaying, it was lovely." Earlston nursery

"The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience. They listened well to Katie and followed her instructions with perfection." St Boswells nursery

Grant: £49,511

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £114,121.53

Local Value created for every £1 in grant: £2.40

Project Achievements

- The highlight of the CLLD project has been the artist's residency. We entered into an agreement with the National Trust for Scotland to place an artist in residence at Robert Smail's Printworks in Innerleithen. We received 75 applications and interviewed 6, appointing Saul Pankhurst who started on the 28th February. He has carried out research, interviews and explorations of the wooden and lead typeface as ground work for a short film He plans to return to Innerleithen in August 2023 to present his work. During the residency he ran open days for the public to see work in progress and to learn about his work.
- Another highlight are the River Celebrations, music and movement sessions run by Katie Fairgrieve, for pre-school children at, Earlston, St Boswells, Newtown St Boswells and Coldstream. These consisted of outdoor music workshops celebrating wildlife of the Tweed using basic instrument playing, movement to music, sign language and hand actions.
- The most critical aspect of the CLLD grant was the ability to maintain the Connecting Threads team and programme, which meant that as soon as recruitment was possible, existing staff were quickly able to start the process. Interviews took place on 21st and 22nd March and the new members of the team started on 25th April.

Organisation Name: Tim Stead Trust

Project Name: Tim Stead - Memory Bank

Contact info: info@timsteadtrust.org **Website:** <http://timsteadtrust.org/>
Memory Bank - Exotic to Native Timber: <http://timsteadtrust.org/memory-bank-exotic-to-native/>
Memory Bank - Café Gandolfi: <http://timsteadtrust.org/memory-bank-cafe-gandolfi/>
Memory Bank - Tim and the Band Saw: <http://timsteadtrust.org/memory-bank-tim-and-the-bandsaw/>

Project Aims

Tim Stead Trust is a small independent charity dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the legacy of Tim Stead, including The Steading and his Archive. The project funded was to create 23 short (2-4 minute) videos about Tim Stead and his artistic and environmental work.

Grant: £19,804

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £29,853.44
For every £1 in Grant the project added £1.51 economic value.

Project Achievements

The films have enabled the Trust to greatly reinforce visitors' experience during their tour of The Steading; they enhance accessibility - especially for the disabled - to a building with inaccessible areas; they explain the background and legacy of Tim Stead swiftly and effectively so that viewer can easily engage with his work and influence. They are extending local educational and community participation, and are helping to promote a wider and lasting appreciation of Tim Stead's creative legacy, both in the Borders and far beyond through use as a digital tool, also playing them at gatherings and exhibitions, etc. They are also being used to recruit and train new volunteers.

Feedback from Participants/Group

"Fantastic films. The wood and the story of his life, along with him growing the trees and setting up the classes, etc – all amazing. His furniture was exquisite, and I would love to see it in real life, as well as the sculptures. It's amazing to see that he is not so well known as he has been a major influence with how things are made now."

From a public screening of all 23 films in South Uist, May 2023

"Very interesting to hear the stories and memories linked to the house and to learn more about how Wooplaw Community Woodland was started." From a screening at Blainslie Village Hall, March 2023.

Organisation Name: Tweedsmuir Community Company

Project Name: Wee Crook Community Cafe

Contact info: Website www.tweedsmuir.scot

Project Aims:

Located in one of the most rural parts of the Borders, Tweedsmuir needs places for the community and visitors to go and act as a centre of activity for the community. This fund was used to successfully fund the completion of the renovation of an old stable building. This has been turned into the 'Wee Crook', a modern Café bistro for use by locals and tourists.

Grant: £9,173.00

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £12,294.45
£1.34 value for every £1 spent



Project Achievements

Since the beginning of March 2023, creation of the café has resulted in:

At least 17 volunteer lead events being held in the Wee Crook, attended by members of the local and wider community including, music nights, quiz nights, and a Dark Sky's evening, catered events e.g., 'Curry Oot' and Limetree Chef. Events have also been delivered in partnership with other organisations e.g., Storytelling events with Connecting Threads and gardening activities with Buglife.

On 9th June we were very pleased to open the Wee Crook Café to the public, operating Friday – Sunday 10:00am - 3:00pm. These arrangements are planned to continue until mid August 2023.

The Wee Crook café is providing a much needed facility offering locals, visitors and tourists opportunities to socialise and participate in a range of activities. It continues to opening up new volunteering opportunities and most recently paid employment for 2 members of staff.

Feedback from Visitors

'Superb night at The Wee Crook... fantastic food from The Limetree and great company too'

'Lovely venue both for resources and for refreshments - great service!'

'Had perfect coffee and cake for breakfast, after walking/chancing the A701.Fab place.'

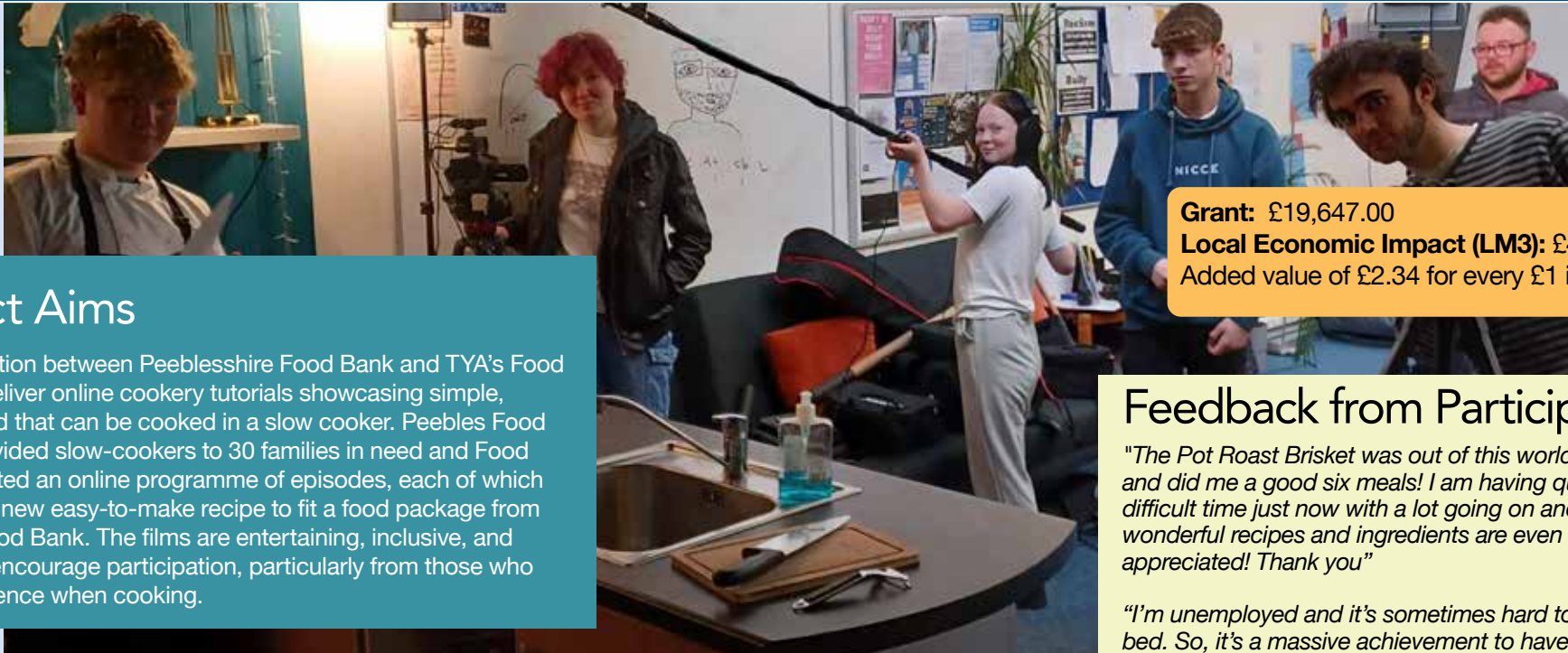
Organisation Name: Tweeddale Youth Action

Project Name: Food Punks Go Low and Slow

Contact info:

Website: Tweeddale Youth Action

Videos: Food Punks - YouTube



Grant: £19,647.00

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £46,024.26

Added value of £2.34 for every £1 in grant.

Project Aims

A collaboration between Peeblesshire Food Bank and TYA's Food Punks to deliver online cookery tutorials showcasing simple, healthy food that can be cooked in a slow cooker. Peebles Food Bank's provided slow-cookers to 30 families in need and Food Punks created an online programme of episodes, each of which will teach a new easy-to-make recipe to fit a food package from Peebles Food Bank. The films are entertaining, inclusive, and homely to encourage participation, particularly from those who lack confidence when cooking.

Project Achievements

- 2256 meals were given to 34 households, totalling more than 130 people.
- Halyrude Primary School cooked along with us, teaching cookery skills to pupils and sending cooked food home to vulnerable families
- In total, we distributed 1.9 tonnes of food.
- We put £1,683.52 into our local high street from fruit and veg and butcher purchases.
- 6 youth volunteers contributed to the project- and all want to continue supporting it in the future.
- 1 young person used this project and the learning to support his application to study film at university.
- 12 Films were made of recipes. The food ranged in price between £0.88 per portion and £2.79 per portion. 5 were vegetarian, 6 contained meat- one was bread
- 3 of TYA's staff team have now been trained on how to use the camera equipment, edit and upload.
- 10 in house video training sessions supported with comprehensive notes and tutorial videos.
- 277 subscribers and over 12,000 views on our Food Punks YouTube channel.

Feedback from Participants

"The Pot Roast Brisket was out of this world amazing and did me a good six meals! I am having quite a difficult time just now with a lot going on and so your wonderful recipes and ingredients are even more appreciated! Thank you"

"I'm unemployed and it's sometimes hard to get out of bed. So, it's a massive achievement to have a hearty meal ready at night. I've given some to friends too."

"I've loved every minute of it. It's been so nice. When the woman comes to the door we have a lovely chat, its so community led."

"Aye, it's been going good. The recipes have been eye opening. The food is really good since I'm diabetic. I've been watching the videos with the card in front of me and I've kept the cards because I'm definitely going to do it again"

"It's saved us money already. Every morning you wake up and smell it and think 'yum!' It's really helped us. I really hope people look at those videos and think this will save me some money."

Organisation Name: Sustainable West Linton and District
Project Name: Community tree raising to restore an ancient woodland

Contact info:

Website: <https://sustainablewld.co.uk>
<https://tree-trail.web.app>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SustainableWestLinton/>

Project Aims:

SWLD is creating a community woodland (Roamers Wood) from grazing land for the benefit of the community and future generations. This opportunity has arisen through a generous local benefactor. Our project aims are creating a love and sense of community ownership of the woodland by working with the local primary school and the community to create the woodland:

Grant: £3,537.28

Local Economic Impact (LM3): £5,359.19
£1.52 value for every £1 spent on grant

Project Achievements

- Renovated Victorian coldframes
- Created a tree nursery at local primary school
- Pupils collected tree seeds from several species which have been sown
- Each class has been caring for 2 seedling oak trees, who all have names (e.g. Oak Dokey),
- The school community, parents/carers, and the wider SWLD community came to a 'big dig' day in late February to build the tree nursery.
- We have run 'Forest school' sessions for the P5, P6, P7 age groups to explore the value of woodlands for health and wellbeing, recreation, and bio-diversity,
- Establishing a blog with the school's digital leaders to report monthly on Roamers progress and activities
[\[https://roamerswestlinton.wordpress.com\]](https://roamerswestlinton.wordpress.com)

Feedback from Participants

"The West Linton Community Council is delighted to support the development of a tree nursery at our Primary School. It is a great example of the community working together with the school and SWL for the benefit of the children and wider community." West Linton Community Council.

"Our pupils have gained enormously from this project and our collaboration with SWLD. The activities capture our pupils' imagination and creativity, and the benefits for outdoor learning are well established. We look forward to continuing to work with SWLD to engender a greater sense of community." Louise Ferguson, Depute Head, West Linton Primary School



Youth Local Action Group



In June 2022, Scottish Borders Council, on behalf of the Scottish Borders LAG, approached YouthBorders to explore the development of the new Borders Youth LAG. Borders Youth LAG is a voluntary youth participation and leadership group of young people aged 16-26 who live, work or study in the Scottish Borders. This group is a youth decision-making forum for rural community development in the Scottish Borders.

Scottish Borders LAG made available £20,000 of their CLLD funding for capital investment to be distributed by the Youth LAG (Y-LAG) in the first quarter of 2023. The Y-LAG is open to any young person living in the Borders; these young people volunteer their time to be a members and participate in social action to make a positive difference to their community.

The Y-LAG is a vehicle for powerful and continued learning, including development of organisational and personal change, political skills and knowledge, as well as changes in attitudes, values and enhancement of self-esteem and sense of personal efficiency. YouthBorders supported the delivery of Borders Youth LAG, which ran from October 2022 to March 2023, and managed the administration of the fund. The Y-LAG has since received funding to continue and expand its activities in 2023-24.

About YouthBorders

YouthBorders is the network of voluntary and community-based youth organisations in the Scottish Borders, supporting and promoting good quality youth work. As a membership organization. YouthBorders facilitates networking opportunities and events, and provides information and advice to organisations, their volunteers, trustees, youth workers and other partners in the community.

YouthBorders is recognised regionally as the strategic voice of third sector youth organisations and works closely with partners in the public sector to improve outcomes for young people.

YouthBorders Staff

- o Carly McAllan – Project Coordinator
- o Sarah Blackie – Youth Development Worker



Girl Cooking – Escape Youth Services

Youth LAG Activities

Co-operative Project and Residential

In February 2023, Borders Youth LAG joined the rest of Scotland's Youth LAG network in Orkney for a three day co-operative project. The focus of the residential was to develop a youth voice and young people gave presentations to inspire each other, share learning, and participated in interactive workshops.

In March, Borders Youth LAG also travelled to Aviemore for their second residential, where they celebrated their achievements through exciting group activities. The group had focused time for project evaluation and discussions for next steps and future Youth LAG plans. After building new connections in Orkney, the Youth LAG were also visited by Cairngorms Youth LAG in Aviemore, where they were able to further develop relationships, share learning and discuss plans and aspirations for the future.



Refill bottles – Alexander M, Eco Refill Station

Quotes from Youth LAG members

“Attending the first session alone has given me confidence as it showed me that I can try new things. It has taken a lot of confidence to keep going and share my ideas. This will help me in the future to step put my comfort zone.”

“Throughout the Youth LAG journey I have improved my communication skills. The trip to Orkney helped as I was mixed with new groups, communicating to people I didn't know. Sharing my thoughts and ideas is something I am working on. The presentation wasn't as scary as I thought it would be.”

“Choosing to join the Youth LAG was a bold move and I have realised the benefits of reaching out and seizing this novel experience. Not only has this journey enriched my life as a young adult, it has inspired me to make changes in Borders communities.”

The Youth LAG its vision and funds

YouthBorders recruited five young people aged 16 to 26 to take part in Borders Youth LAG. This group met regularly over 11 sessions using a hybrid model of online and in-person group meetings. The vision and priorities for the fund were decided by the young people.

Fund Vision: “We want to invest in you and your ideas. If you are under 30, have a great idea which you believe will make a positive impact on the Scottish Borders community, economy, or environment then we want to hear from you”.

Fund Priorities: “We encourage you to apply for ideas that meet one of more of our priorities:”

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Rural Poverty
- Cost of Living (group applications only)
- Business & Enterprise
- Community

Borders Youth LAG were supported to co-design and develop grant-making tools and frameworks, application guidance and form, application scoring system. They also engaged in peer-to-peer learning from other established Youth LAGs, took the lead on decision making to allocate funding, and followed-up with successful applicants to put their ideas into action.

Youth Borders [Y-LAG page](#)

Youth LAG members: Emma G, Jordan L, Sean K, Lucy R, Megan P

Applications

Borders Youth LAG were thrilled to receive 36 funding applications, requesting over £38,000. Youth LAG made the decision to fund a total of 21 individuals and groups. Youth LAG discovered that the young people of the Scottish Borders have an abundance of amazing ideas including a pop up refill shop selling recyclable, eco-friendly cleaning products in Duns, a cooker for young people to use at Escape Youth Services, a market stall selling freshly grown vegetables in Hawick and a local young artist. These projects reflect incredible levels of youth innovation and talent, as well as an impressive sense of community.



Dogs – Ben H, Artist



Veg Stall – Miwa N, Hawick Vegetable Stall

Chair's Note - the future of CLLD

Hans Walzl –as current chair

“2022 was the first year the Local Action Group was able to offer Community Led Local Development Funding. I’d like to pay tribute to the incredibly high quality of the ideas that came to us for funding and we wish we could have funded them all. The LAG gave out over £353,000 to 21 projects. However the ones we were able to fund delivered much needed support and services stretching literally from Tweedsmuir to Eyemouth and up from Hawick to Carllops. I hope you’ve enjoyed reading about them and share our pleasure at their successes.

For the first time the LAG with partners Youth Borders were able to take the vital step of getting young people together to form their own LAG (Y-LAG) and to provide money for them to give out as grants to other young people. The LAG are so proud of the Y-LAG members and the projects they chose. We hope you are inspired by their stories.

The LAG is delighted that Scottish Ministers have approved a second round of Community Led Local Development Funding of £6.7 million for rural areas of Scotland in 2023-24. The LAG looks forward to being able to support even more excellent projects next year. The LAG will also be looking to continue to fund the Borders Youth LAG (Y-LAG)”



Staff and Members of LAG

Staff Team

Staff Team

Linda Cornwall –Co-ordinator

Simon Lynch –Facilitator

Joanna Pringle –Programme Support Officer

Nesta Todd-Programme Support Officer

Gail Blacklock –Programme Support Officer

LAG members 2022-23

Gary White (Chair) –Social Can Scotland

Hans Waltl (Vice Chair) –Private sector

Luke Comins –Tweed Forum

Lesley Forsyth –Scottish Borders Council

Annabelle Scott –Private Sector

Heather Batsch –Borders Third Sector Interface

Dr Anna Griffin –SEPA

Miriam Adcock –Zero Waste Scotland

Pip Tabor-Southern Upland Partnership

Charles Dundas –Borders Forest Trust

Louisa Gardiner –Private Sector

Annique Armstrong –Visit Scotland

Margaret Simpson –Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber

Funded by:



Decisions made by:



Administered by:

