



Scottish Borders **LEADER** Celebration 2014-2020



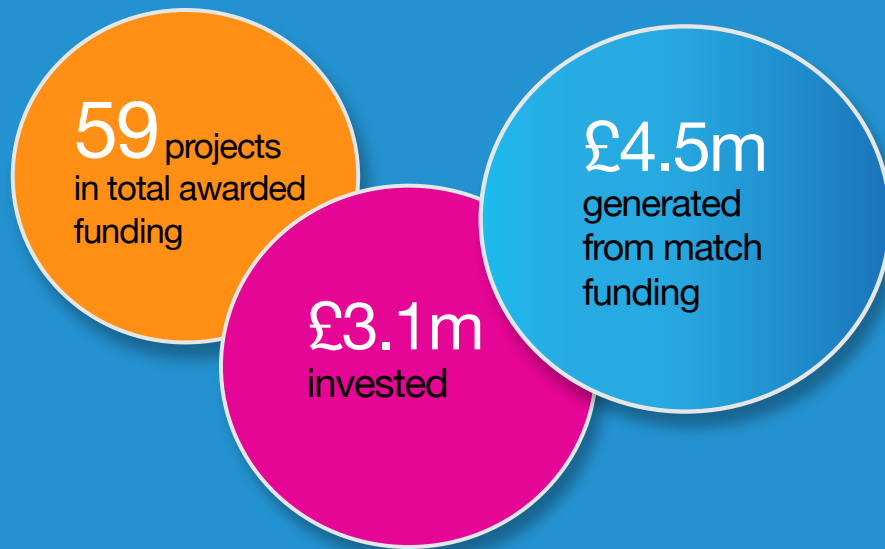
Foreword

From youth groups, wellness and community halls to glamping, skate parks and golden eagles... Over the past 7 years, EU funding has helped nearly 60 Borders groups and businesses to raise their game.

Over £3.1 million has gone out to support projects right across the Scottish Borders region in the last 7 years. So wherever you are in the Scottish Borders, you, your family and community have seen the benefit of European regional funding, but many people don't realise it! This booklet gives a taste of the LEADER programme's success and transformative impact.

As the EU LEADER programme draws to a close, what about the future? What will take the place of grassroots placemaking investment in the UK's rural areas?

While celebrating LEADER's legacy, we also hope it will inspire future investment that will enable communities, businesses and individuals to continue to make innovative, committed and productive contributions to Scottish Borders life, jobs and livelihoods.



e-biking in the Ettrick Valley

Front Cover

Captains Road Walkers; Products made by RE-Tweed;
View from Castlehill Stables Log Cabin

What Scottish Borders set out to deliver in 2014-2020

LEADER funding supports development of identified priorities set out in the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the area. The 2014-2020 LDS was developed through a process of community consultation to inform the LEADER 2014-2020 funding programme. Scottish Borders covers approximately 4736 square kilometres. It is a highly productive agricultural region producing fine food and drink and has a strong local community identity and sense of place. The need to create 'Enterprising Communities' was identified as a way forward to build income into the area and sustain fragile farming communities and small businesses to develop and grow for the future. The four themes which were the main focus of funding were:-

- Focus on enterprise, including revenue generation and sustainability
- Focus on support for small and micro rural businesses and social enterprises, including key rural sectors:
 - o Tourism - including raising standards.
 - o Food and Drink - supply chain development.
 - o Creative industries - including arts, culture and events.
 - o Renewables - supporting the development of the low carbon economy and reducing energy bills.
- A focus on developing people:
 - o Supporting projects that create employment.
 - o Developing community capacity and leadership.
 - o Supporting employability and youth employment.
 - o Supporting skills development and training opportunities.
- Geographic focus on areas of rural deprivation.

Innovation remained a fundamental aspect of LEADER projects along with a broad focus on capacity building to encourage progressive growth long after the LEADER funding has been utilised.



157 small/
micro businesses
supported

27 farm
businesses
supported into
diversification

85 jobs
created

Current Programme – LEADER 2014-2020

LEADER has always been an important funding resource since its inception in the Scottish Borders area. As in previous years, demand has been high during the 2014-2020 programme. The variety of projects demonstrated in this publication will provide inspiration in diversification of rural businesses and voluntary organisations to increase income potential and attract economic benefit to the area. We are sure you will be inspired by some of the very innovative projects which have been supported to develop in this programme and the benefits demonstrated by participant comments. Projects were split into four funding categories as follows:-



Project Categories

Community	Farm Diversification	Rural Enterprise	Co-operation
01. Recruitment of Marketing Officer for Visit Kelso	29. Falnash Glamping Pods	37. Bloodline Spirits	53. South of Scotland Golden Eagles Project
02. Stobs Camp Project	30. Borders Log Cabins	38. Eildon Glamping	54. Whiteadder: Heart of the Lammermuirs
03. Enterprising Young People	31. Legerwood Steading	39. Ice Cream Growth Scheme	55. Scottish Borders Access Project: Phase 1
04. St Johns Base Energy Efficiency Solution	32. The Hideout	40. The Byre	56. Midlothian & Borders Tourism Action Group Marketing Project
05. Berwickshire Futures	33. Agritait Equine Clinic	41. EV Destinations	57. Crowdfunding Coaches
06. Ride Scotland's Horse Country	34. Fluffy Moos	42. Eden Valley Cabins	58. Regional Food Assemblies
07. Re-Tweed	35. Rural Remedy	43. Dod Mill	59. Rural Youth Project
08. Borders Arts Fair	36. Neidpath Memorial Wood	44. Tweeddogs Dog Day Care Centre	
09. The Merlin Trail		45. Flat Racing Development	
10. Ettrick & Yarrow Valley Projects		46. Equestrian Theatre	
11. Coffee Shop & Play Area		47. Riddell Estate Visitor Accommodation & Visitor Experience	
12. Eastgate Theatre Development		48. Nethhill Sheepdog Holidays	
13. Eyemouth Harbour Access Enhancement Project		49. Old Melrose Green Office Development	
14. Castle Facility Upgrade		50. Whitglen Small Animal Hydrotherapy	
15. Enterprise Facilitator – Supporting the Development of Enterprising Communities		51. BLT & Borders Young Creatives	
16. Heat for a Heart for Duns		52. Oblo Bar & Bistro Lift Project	
17. Whistle Stop Cafe			
18. Enterprise Facilitator – Mentoring for Growth			
19. Marine SIP – Seabed Interpretation Project			
20. Galvanising Garvald			
21. Tweed Valley Mountain Bike Development			
22. Re-Tweed Scaled Up			
23. Jedburgh Pool Enhancement			
24. Enterprise Facilitator – Social Enterprise Zone			
25. Borders Firewood Employee			
26. Kelso Skate Park			
27. Learning in a Heritage Landscape			
28. Eat, Sleep, Ride			

01

Project Name: Recruitment of Marketing Officer for Visit Kelso

www.visitkelso.com

Project Summary

Visit Kelso is a marketing group working alongside Kelso Chamber of Trade. The aim is to market the town of Kelso, the surrounding area and all there is to offer by enhancing the town's website www.visitkelso.com, having an active social media campaign, advertising all local events, promoting the shops, cafes and restaurants, hotels, local accommodation places, local services, clubs and associations and visitor attractions in the area. This project recruited a part-time Marketing Officer to implement Visit Kelso's marketing strategy to further raise the profile of Kelso and the surrounding area to the outside world and increase the number of paid subscriptions from its enterprise members.

Useful Tips

- Good to have someone in your group with computer package skills as grant system quite technical

LEADER Grant:	£7,440
Match Funding:	£4,960
Total Project Costs:	£12,400

Project Aims:

- To successfully recruit an experienced individual in the role of Marketing Officer to promote the town of Kelso

Achievements

- Aided further development of the organisation to grow for future
- Enabled employment of 2 part time staff
- Supported Tour of Britain event and associated income generating activities
- Developed new and improved functional website
- Increased promotion through social media (2,404 likes to 3,264 in 6 months on Facebook alone)
- Developed links with VisitScotland iKnow Scotland initiative
- Developed promotional business activities

Community

Project Summary

This project carried out an in-depth study of Stobs Camp, near Hawick which is recognised worldwide as a rare, if not unique, site illustrating both the training of a country's own troops but more importantly the treatment of Prisoners of War during the First World War. The project refurbished a lasting memorial to internees who died at the camp and promotes the site as a historical tourist attraction in the Scottish Borders.

Achievements

- Over 100 volunteers took part in the project and invested over 5000 hours to investigate the camp
- One young volunteer awarded Young Archaeologist of the Year in 2019
- Vast collection of Stobs images annotated – catalogue created with over 1600 images and searchable references
- Cemetery area refurbished with interpretation
- Project Book completed and published
- Attracted TV footage from 'Antiques Road Trip'
- Twitter account has over 800 followers

Project Aims:

- Research the history of those interned at the camp, the guards and soldiers who were trained there
- Survey the remaining buildings and cemetery
- Undertake small scale excavations
- Engage local community in activities such as workshops, guided walks and talks
- Create schools learning pack
- Reinstate cemetery memorial
- Create a walking tour app
- Undertake promotional activities

Useful Tips

- Time was a challenge – ensure you cost out time as well as budget

Participants Feedback

- *"There has always been an inclusive feel - a family working together"* - Vice-President of Hawick Archaeological Society
- *"The pupils got so much out of it - they asked to go another day. This ties in so well with the Skills for Work initiative"* - former Kelso High School Teacher
- *"The project has put Stobs back on the map both locally and internationally"*
- *"Stobs is now a symbol that brings people and nations together rather than divides them"* - Aston University, Birmingham

LEADER Grant: £34,084.68
 Match Funding: £174,229.89
 Total Project Costs: £208,314.57

Project Name: Enterprising Young People

www.tweeddaleyouth.co.uk

LEADER Grant: £93,710.20
 Match Funding: £72,076.98
 Total Project Costs: £165,787.18

Project Summary

Tweeddale Youth Action is based in Peebles and provides youth support activities. It had a small outdoor catering business called Food Punks which supported local events and provided catering experience for young people. It also had a bike mechanic business, Bike Punks, which offered skills training for young people in bike repair and artistic sculpture made from bike parts. This project employed staff to develop and expand these small businesses into income generating strands to support the sustainability of Tweeddale Youth Action as well as providing more training and employment opportunities for many more young people in catering and mechanical trades.

Useful Tips

- Ensure sufficient time is spent on project planning before submission of funding application
- Continue to learn from your experiences as you move along
- Covid encouraged move into online delivery mechanisms and blended learning which has proved beneficial

Achievements

- Increased confidence and resilience in young people
- Encouraged young people to re-engage with learning
- Encouraged young people to secure employment and start micro businesses
- Young people heart of project, teaching valuable, industry specific and transferable skills for employment
- Generated income to ensure sustainability of Tweeddale Youth Action
- 208 learning days delivered through the project period

Participants Feedback

"I always used to feel so stupid at school. I used to mess around and get into trouble just to get out of class. Food and Bike Punks was different from school- I wanted to learn some skills and be good at what I was doing"

"That was the best BBQ I have ever had! Excellent quality of meat, tasty salads and cooked to perfection"

Project Aims:

- Generate income through Food & Bike Punks projects to reduce need for grant funding
- Ensure sustainability of the organisation for the future
- Raise profile of Tweeddale Youth Action through social enterprise
- Improve employment and employability opportunities for young people
- Develop skills of young people and team building
- Encourage artistic skills of young people
- Attract approximately 40 participants

Project Name: St John's Base Energy Efficiency Solution

Project Summary

Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue is a Charity that forms part of the national mountain rescue network. They cover the Borders west of the A68 and operate from the former fire station at Melrose. The premises were converted into a suitable base for housing their equipment and vehicles but power costs to keep their equipment fully charged in case of emergency were proving high. This project provided a renewable energy source in the form of solar panels to reduce energy costs and assist with sustainability of the charity and building for the future.

Useful Tips

- Ensure you have the correct team of individuals to manage the project
- Draw on the skills of your members
- Invest time and effort to secure funding and support required

LEADER Grant:	£21,206.82
Match Funding:	£14,137.88
Total Project Costs:	£35,344.70

Achievements

- Now generating own electricity from 12 solar photovoltaic panels
- Air source heat pump, Tesla battery and inventor now provides efficient and sustainable heating and lighting
- Base now used to host Basic Life Support and Defibrillator training days
- Has assisted in refurbishment of base with other green technologies to reduce running costs

Participants Feedback

"LEADER funding has given us the opportunity to install renewable technology into our new team base that we would otherwise not have had access to. This will not only reduce our impact on the environment but also reduce running costs to the team allowing us to divert more of the teams precious funding to directly support our search and rescue activities. This is good news both for the team and the community we serve."

Project Aims:

- Reduce overall energy needs
- Generate own energy supply to cover majority of our needs

Project Summary

This project was carried out by Connect a community organisation dedicated to working with young people in Berwickshire. The project supported young people on their journey from childhood towards becoming confident, responsible, employable adults through opportunities to maximise their potential. The project provided work experience options in gardening, catering, retail/enterprise and digital training to build skills towards gainful employment.



Project Aims:

- Build range of activities to develop young people's confidence, skills and employability
- Create work experience opportunities
- Reduce rural deprivation for young people

Achievements

- Built a range of activities to develop confidence, skills and employability of young people
- Able to spread offer across Eyemouth, Duns and Coldstream
- 3 new volunteers attracted during funding period
- All young people worked towards volunteering accreditation
- 5 young people now in full time employment
- New partnerships developed beyond project

LEADER Grant:	£67,249.23
Match Funding:	£63,951.50
Total Project Costs:	£131,200.73

Participants Feedback

"During this funding period we have engaged with young people new to our project and all with issues in their lives. Supported and encouraged by our Leader project workers we can report that 23 hard to reach young people have become more involved in community development"

Project Name: Ride Scotland's Horse Country

Project Summary

Scottish Borders has more horses per head of population than anywhere else in Scotland, with all the attendant infrastructure and skills, but was largely unknown as a place for people to holiday with horses. This project developed this niche market through the employment of a Project Officer. The Project Officer worked with existing businesses to assist them to work together to develop products that helped both themselves and the wider Borders economy and promote Scottish Borders as a place to holiday with their horses.

LEADER Grant: £58,488
Match Funding: £38,992
Total Project Costs: £97,480

Achievements

- The project worked with a number of accommodation providers, riding groups and equestrian businesses.
- Some lasting partnerships were formed and significant momentum developed.
- The Ride Scottish Borders website was established and 'overall routes' page attracted most views
- Facebook posts regularly reach over 36,000 people and Instagram steadily growing
- An excellent guide to riding routes was published and circulated

Project Aims:

- Grow local participation with equestrian activities
- Develop Scottish Borders as centre of excellence for rural horse-based tourism
- Increase usage of existing rural horse trails and expand choice of rides
- Grow visitor occupancy levels amongst equestrian accommodation providers
- Develop working network of linked equestrian support services

Useful Tips

- It takes time to get small businesses to develop sufficient trust to allow real joint working, but the benefits of this are significant.
- Blogging is a great way of attracting interest – from all over the World!

Participants Feedback

"I have been travelling around the UK with my horse, Nobby, for the last month and one of the most thrilling and exciting stops on our journey was at Hawick. I spent 4 days with Sheila (Wiltonburn) and explored as much of Hawick and the surrounding countryside as possible and will be recommending horse holidays in the beautiful Scottish borders to anyone who has been inspired by Nobby's adventures. A big thank you to everyone in the Borders for keeping horse riding traditions going, and for opening up wonderful treks in your beautiful countryside"

Project Summary

The focus of this organisation is recycling materials to create new clothing, furnishings and items with the aim of tackling women's social and economic inequality, particularly those who are disadvantaged. By providing craft, design and technology training, practical skills development and employability assistance career progression was supported. This project provided skills training, employment and access to enterprise for 24 disadvantaged women over a one year project. It also employed 4 staff on a part-time basis to deliver and manage the project, as well as offering volunteering opportunities.

LEADER Grant: £14,374.85
 Match Funding: £17,050.86
 Total Project Costs: £31,425.71

Achievements

- Attracted 8 new students and 2 new volunteers
- 80% textiles used in the training programme were recycled
- 7 women gained new skills
- All Re-Tweed graduates progressed towards employment
- 4 women have set-up their own micro-enterprises



Project Aims:

Provide training, skills, employment and social interaction for women facing multiple disadvantage

- Produce artisan clothes, furnishings and crafts
- Convert environmental concerns for customers
- Inspire others to up-cycle through creative art
- Develop brand and rejuvenate Borders heritage for fashion and textiles
- Provide routes to employment
- Assist economic growth

Participants Feedback

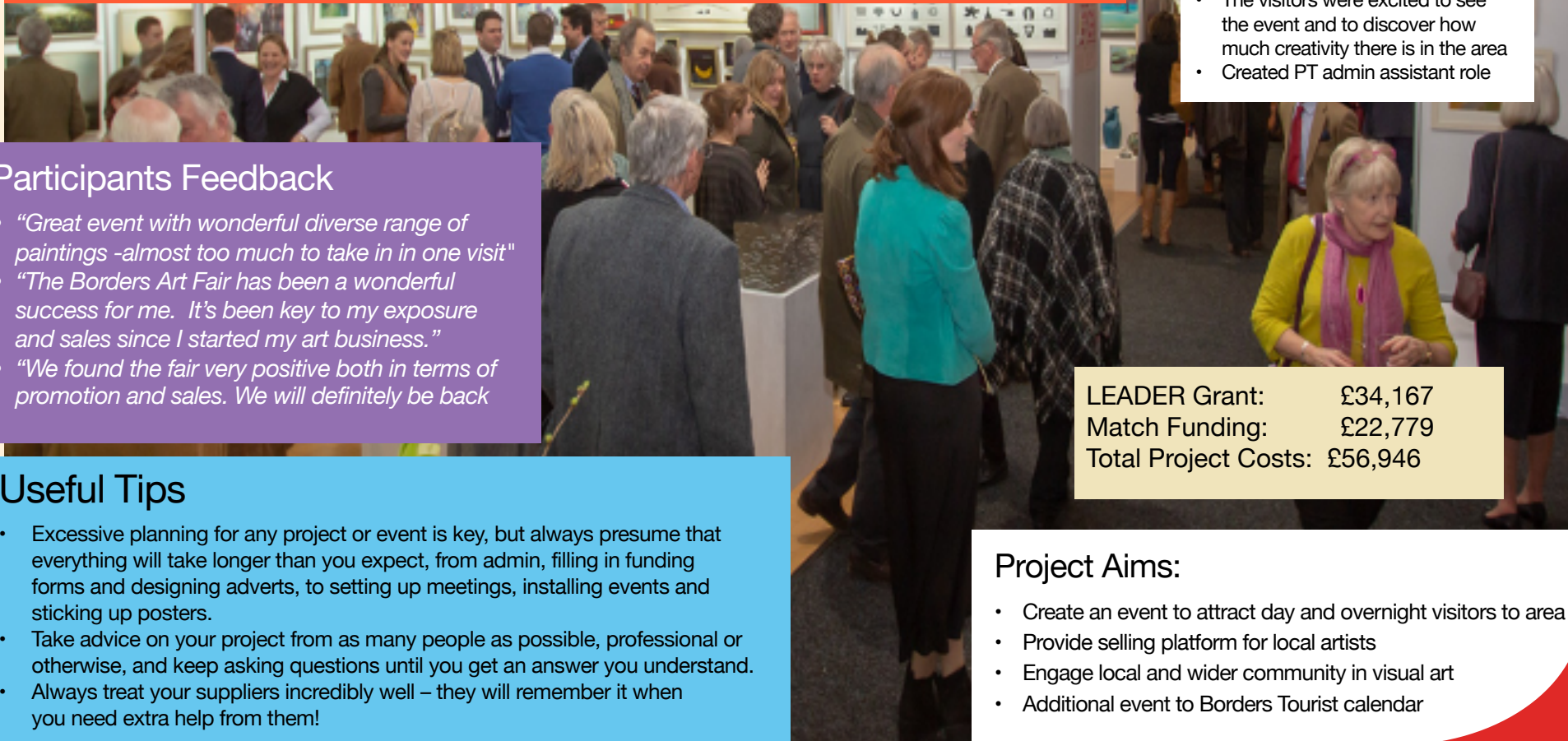
"the funding from LEADER has provided the conditions and resources for Re-Tweed to take our social enterprise from a start-up to an emergent social enterprise. Our 3 year Business Plan takes us through to mature and sustainable social enterprise"

Project Name: Borders Arts Fair

www.bordersartfair.com

Project Summary

This project set up an annual large scale visual arts fair, to celebrate creativity in the Borders. Over 60 artists and galleries rent shell stands to exhibit and sell their work under one roof, at Springwood Hall, Kelso. It incorporates artist led workshops, demonstrations and talks to suit all ages and abilities, on-site cafe showcasing local produce, and competitions and opportunities to exhibit for young people. Businesses are given the opportunity to get involved through sponsorship and advertising, and the additional footfall to the area assists sustainability of local accommodation providers, food/ drink and retail outlets.



Achievements

- Over £281k spent on art over two weekends in the Borders.
- £186k of that was taken by local artists and galleries
- 25% of visitors in 2018 who filled in the feedback forms had travelled more than 30 miles. That rose to 37% in 2019.
- The visitors were excited to see the event and to discover how much creativity there is in the area
- Created PT admin assistant role

Participants Feedback

- *"Great event with wonderful diverse range of paintings -almost too much to take in in one visit"*
- *"The Borders Art Fair has been a wonderful success for me. It's been key to my exposure and sales since I started my art business."*
- *"We found the fair very positive both in terms of promotion and sales. We will definitely be back"*

LEADER Grant:	£34,167
Match Funding:	£22,779
Total Project Costs:	£56,946

Useful Tips

- Excessive planning for any project or event is key, but always presume that everything will take longer than you expect, from admin, filling in funding forms and designing adverts, to setting up meetings, installing events and sticking up posters.
- Take advice on your project from as many people as possible, professional or otherwise, and keep asking questions until you get an answer you understand.
- Always treat your suppliers incredibly well – they will remember it when you need extra help from them!

Project Aims:

- Create an event to attract day and overnight visitors to area
- Provide selling platform for local artists
- Engage local and wider community in visual art
- Additional event to Borders Tourist calendar

09

Project Name: The Merlin Trail

LEADER Grant: £10,997.29
Match Funding: £8,000
Total Project Costs: £18,997.29

Project Summary

This project was carried out by a community organisation to engage the general public as detectives to investigate and discover the hidden heritage of the Scottish Dark Age (400-800AD). The project created a Merlin Trail across Southern Scotland where the story focused around the remote communities of Upper Tweeddale where many believe Merlin was assassinated, but with other Dark Age locations further across the Borders.

Participants Feedback

“After a bit of research I saw what a fantastic opportunity this was for the South of Scotland. It’s the first time anything as comprehensive as this has been done here”.

Project Aims:

- Create an all-season experience to increase tourism
- Enable local community to explore largely forgotten Scottish Borders Dark Age heritage
- Boost environmental, cultural and experiential tourism in the area
- Increase economic benefit for less visited part of Scottish Borders
- Develop local business collaboration

Useful Tips

- *More information available Book & gazetteer: On The Trail of Merlin in a Dark Age by Robin Crichton and Permanent Exhibition at Moffat Museum*
- *More tips can be obtained from our website merlintrail.com*

Achievements

- Educated local people in forgotten heritage and enhanced sense of place
- Aroused interest internationally in Dark Age Southern Scotland
- Created tourism trail with interpretative QR coding, supported by website and book
- Increased growth by 20% in first year for measurable visits

Project Name: Ettrick & Yarrow Valley Projects

Project Summary

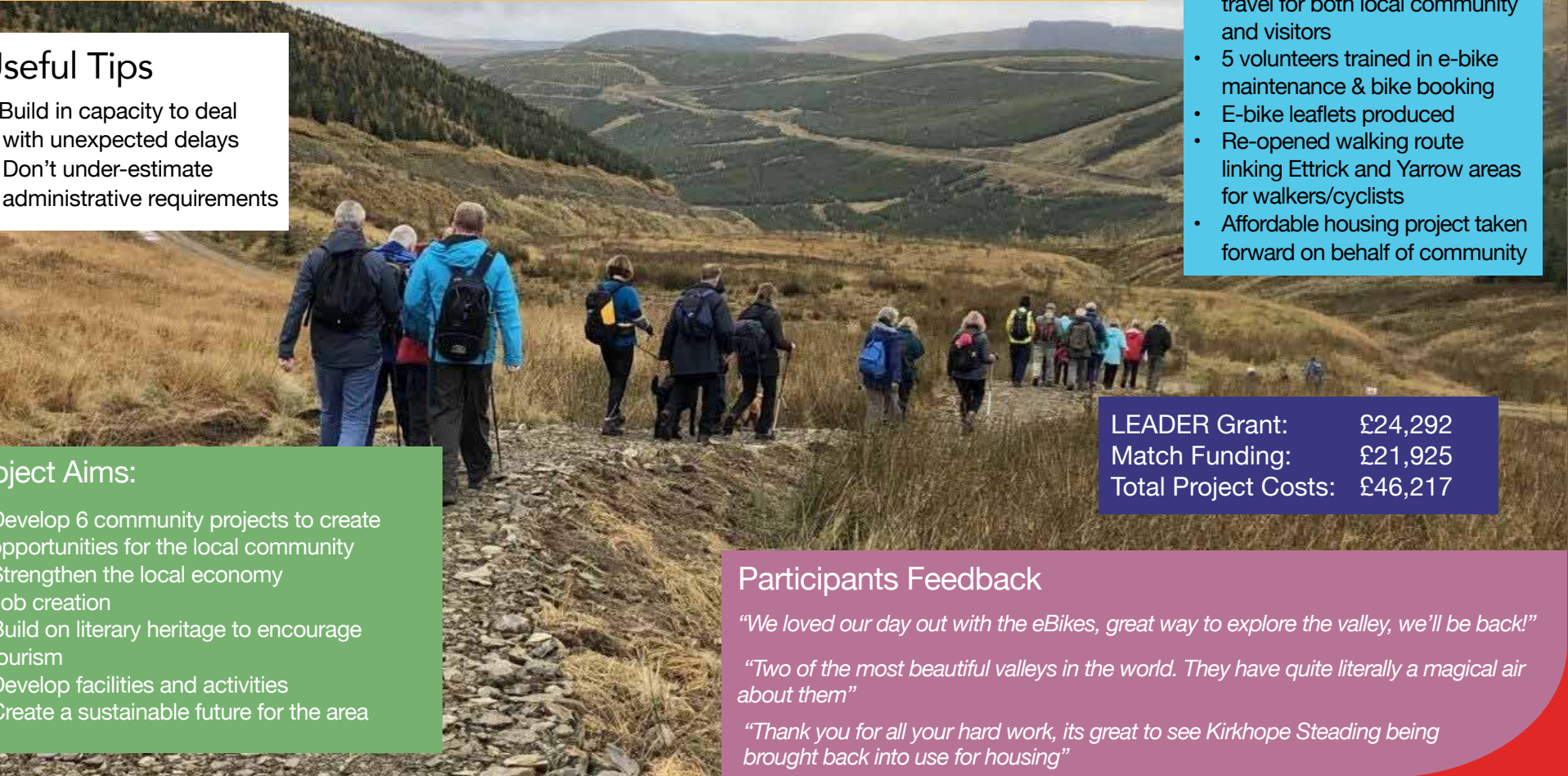
This project engaged a Project Officer to take forward delivery of 6 community projects highlighted in its Community Action Plan to create employment opportunities and increase the economic potential of the rural Ettrick area. The projects developed tourism opportunities through development and promotion of the area's natural beauty and local heritage. It also took forward a community housing and commercial laundry initiative to benefit the local community.

Achievements

- Saved old school building to create a resource hub for the community
- Provided e-bike hire to benefit travel for both local community and visitors
- 5 volunteers trained in e-bike maintenance & bike booking
- E-bike leaflets produced
- Re-opened walking route linking Ettrick and Yarrow areas for walkers/cyclists
- Affordable housing project taken forward on behalf of community

Useful Tips

- Build in capacity to deal with unexpected delays
- Don't under-estimate administrative requirements



Project Aims:

- Develop 6 community projects to create opportunities for the local community
- Strengthen the local economy
- Job creation
- Build on literary heritage to encourage tourism
- Develop facilities and activities
- Create a sustainable future for the area

LEADER Grant:	£24,292
Match Funding:	£21,925
Total Project Costs:	£46,217

Participants Feedback

"We loved our day out with the eBikes, great way to explore the valley, we'll be back!"

"Two of the most beautiful valleys in the world. They have quite literally a magical air about them"

"Thank you for all your hard work, its great to see Kirkhope Steading being brought back into use for housing"

Project Name: Coffee Shop & Play Area

www.birdgardensscotland.com

Project Aims:

- Build an eco-friendly coffee shop which blends into the local surroundings
- Create an outdoor play space for families to enjoy as well as visiting the bird garden
- Create a visitor attraction for the area

Project Summary

Situated at Oxton, Bird Garden Scotland is a social enterprise devoted to conserving bird species from Scotland and around the world and has strong links to similar conservation focused organisations. The project created a straw-bale build café with renewable energy sources, creating employment opportunities in the area, and play area to enhance visitor experiences. The facility will enable the Bird Garden to become self-sustaining for the future.

Useful Tips

- Ensure Planning requirements are agreed well in advance of project development to avoid any unexpected changes to project planning.
- Until works are complete, keep every piece of paper, receipt and even your thought processes safe and sacred as you will need them all.

LEADER Grant:	£103,180.47
Match Funding:	£50,000
Total Project Costs:	£153,180.47

Participants Feedback

"The Borders LEADER team have been incredible, supporting us throughout the build and award processes. Having LEADER funding has given confidence to other funding opportunities for projects in the grounds. The coffee shop will enable Bird Gardens Scotland to fully embrace ambitious conservation breeding programmes, saving species 'One Hatch at a Time'"

Achievements

- Creation of greater community interest in future project development
- Has brought people and birds together
- Creation of a facility which is a community hub offering indoor and outdoor recreational learning space
- Facility for families and visitors to enjoy as well as local community
- Capacity to create 18 jobs
- Creation of volunteering opportunities

Project Name: Eastgate Development Project

Project Summary

Eastgate Theatre is a small independent cultural venue located in Peebles. This project was carried out to improve the visitor experience by creating a more comfortable, safer and accessible environment for theatre audiences. This was achieved by installing a new, more comfortable seating rake with additional leg room, handrails and lighting on the stairs for audience safety and accessibility, a remodelled balcony area with better sightlines and an improved heating/ventilation system.

LEADER Grant:	£118,768.44
Match Funding:	£154,859.80
Total Project Costs:	£273,628.24

Useful Tips

- Be prepared to check and review project developments at every stage
- Be ready to revise and improve plans wherever appropriate
- Be sure to communicate with funders through the process
- Be patient – it will be worth it in the end

Achievements

- 9% increase in theatre sales in first 6 months after completion
- Excellent response to adaptations from older and less able participants
- Volunteer ushers pleased with improved environment
- Easily retracted seating enabled theatre to be used for COVID-safe activities after lockdown
- Improved heating/ventilation enabled theatre events to be reinstated with COVID mitigations when permitted

Participants Feedback

“we have always regarded the Eastgate as the heartbeat of Peebles and truly admire the steps you are taking to develop and improve the facility”
“this is a really great facility for Peebles and surrounding areas”
“fabulous place for the whole community”
“we love the Eastgate!”

Project Aims:

- Increase auditorium comfort, safety and accessibility
- Upgrade heating and ventilation within theatre
- Increase total theatre capacity
- Improve sight lines in restricted seating areas
- Improve annual turnover from theatre use

Project Name: Eyemouth Harbour Access Enhancement Project

Project Summary

This project enhanced a vital part of Eyemouth's infrastructure, namely the Red Bridge which links the two sides of the Eyemouth Harbour. The bridge did not enable access for people using modern mobility scooters or large buggies. It was also narrow preventing any form of vehicular access across the harbour resulting in a multi-mile detour. The new enhanced bridge allows the use of fork-lifts for moving catches and equipment, provides access for all, as well as providing a safer crossing for local residents and visitors to Eyemouth and those using the coastal path for walking/cycling.

Achievements

- Has provided a new, modern, fit for purpose bridge, which enhances access and provides a vital link in the town for generations to come
- Every week, thousands of people cross the bridge for business, leisure, access to work, school, shops, health, and well-being purposes
- The bridge also lifts up hydraulically to enable boats to access the boatyard
- Allows better access for harbour operations, boatyard and fishing/processing industry in the town

Project Aims:

- Enhance harbour connectivity to maximise economy and opportunities for the community
- Maintain access across and around the harbour area
- Improve operational efficiencies at boatyard to safeguard jobs
- Increase access for visitors from the coastal route improving tourism

Useful Tips

- Early and continuous engagement with stakeholders is essential
- Ensure scope of surveys are adequate and fit for purpose
- Regular dialogue with funders to ensure all grant conditions are met and updates are relevant and timely

Participants Feedback

"The new wider forklift bearing red bridge has been a tremendous asset for the FMA. It saves a 4-mile round trip every time we need to go to the harbour basin which in turn saves labour and fuel costs"

"The bridge is incredibly important to the town, vital point of access for well bodied, but also elderly and less abled residents. It is a focal point for tourists. The bridge is also vital for work access for the harbour workforce, lifeboat men, etc."

LEADER Grant: £126,885
Match Funding: £97,724
Total Project Costs: £224,609

Project Name: Castle Facility Upgrade

www.thirlestanecastle.co.uk

Achievements

- All project aims delivered
- Phase 1 of a five-year sustainability plan completed
- Trust finances significantly improved and targets met
- The creation of 2 new full time roles and 2 part time roles
- Project has been a catalyst for the delivery of the sustainability plan (now on phase 3) and has ensured that the heritage at Thirlestane has been saved for the next generation

Project Summary

Thirlestane Castle Trust is a not for profit charity which sits on the edge of the town of Lauder. The number of visitors coming for tours of the property has fallen, this has been partially offset over the years by income from events and the café. The project opened unused areas of the castle for catering by creation of serveries, a new multi-purpose event space and self-catering flat accommodation. This has enabled it to build on its events capacity and enable better sustainability for the future.

LEADER Grant: £149,994.50
Match Funding: £134,247.50
Total Project Costs: £284,242

Useful Tips

- Having a long-term plan and understanding the outcomes required at the outset of the process was vital.
- Phasing the plan to deliver and focus on quick revenue successes has enabled the trust to meet its targets and maintain momentum to deliver subsequent phases.
- Plan the project carefully in advance to ensure that you're able to stick to a plan and budget.

Participants Feedback

- *Successfully being awarded LEADER funding was an absolutely critical first step for Thirlestane and has provided the catalyst and momentum for continued fundraising and development.*
- *Support from the local LEADER team was much appreciated and made the project possible.*

Project Aims:

- Promote castle for events and short stay accommodation
- Diversify event capacity into currently unused parts of castle
- Increase number of large events
- Increase visitor numbers to Lauder and Scottish Borders
- Inspire, educate and entertain visitors
- Showcase areas local food and drink suppliers
- Increase sustainability of castle

Project Name: Enterprise Facilitator - Supporting the Development of Enterprising Communities

Project Summary

This project employed an Enterprise Facilitator to build the capacity of geographical communities in the Scottish Borders by growing existing/new community/development trusts. It explored innovative solutions to fit local needs, focusing initially on the most deprived areas, through promotional activities and a series of network learning events.

Project Aims:

- Employ Enterprise Facilitator to work with new and existing community or development trusts
- Provide support for communities to become involved in provision of local services/development of community assets

Achievements

- Provided platform for Development Trusts in 5 locality areas of Scottish Borders
- Offered employment for one fulltime Enterprise Facilitator
- Over 30 communities took part in networking events
- Enabled groups to share ideas
- Development Trusts are now better connected and upskilled

Participants Feedback

"Opens out many prospects not aware of till then. Helps with who to go to for advice and support. Really informative and good networking. Lots of ideas."

"Very informative event. Professional content."

LEADER Grant: £34,446.42
 Total Project Costs: £34,446.42



Project Name: Heat for a Heart for Duns

A Heart for Duns

LEADER Grant: £31,165.31
 Match Funding: £39,190
 Total Project Costs: £70,355.31

Achievements

- Have created a much warmer usable facility to benefit all especially elderly and very young
- Installed more efficient quieter heating system
- Significantly better levels of comfort and lower bills experienced
- Have become much greener, more alert to utility usage and developed a theme of greener and better projects
- Have developed partnership working to engage in conversations as to how we can do more
- Demand for events have increased from average of around 8 bookings per week to 10 bookings per week

Participants Feedback

"It's so good to have a warm and welcoming hall and heating that is quiet and works. Before the work we had to choose to have heat that wasn't that good and was noisy, or no heat at all if we wanted it to be quiet"

"Ah love the heat and it disnae make a noise ony mair"

Useful Tips

- Spend the time you need on proper project planning beforehand to avoid hold ups further down the line
- Revise business planning when necessary to address unexpected occurrences (ie. Covid)

Project Summary

A Heart for Duns is a community organisation who runs the Volunteer Hall in Duns. The main hall is a 350 person capacity flat floored, multi-purpose venue which suffered from lack of insulation, noisy heating, inefficient fluorescent tube lighting and no ventilation. This project installed an energy efficient new heating system as part of phased refurbishment to make the hall a more usable venue for community, private and arts events to meet the demands of a growing community.

Project Aims:

- Replace antiquated old heating system to increase usage
- Increase popularity of venue for community usage all year round
- Increase events activity including artistic performances
- Embark on energy saving costs

Project Summary

To meet an identified need to provide longer term employment opportunities, this project set up a Café almost opposite the railway station at Tweedbank which services the Borders Railway. As well as providing much needed toilet and café facilities the project provided employment for people with learning difficulties or additional needs to enable them to progress to gainful employment.

Participants Feedback

"Before I started, I was very shy WSC has really helped build up my confidence. Now I enjoy meeting new people"

"I learnt new skills working in the Café serving customers"

"What does WSC mean to you? Everything, it means everything to me"



LEADER Grant: £12,573.05
Match Funding: £10,040.00
Total Project Costs: £22,613.05

Useful Tips

- Continually market what you offer to promote existence
- Listen to customer feedback and implement changes where required

Achievements

- Successfully enabled people to gain skills for employment
- Provided employment for 2 part-time assistants and one part-time catering supervisor
- 4 longterm unemployed trainees gained skills during lifetime of project
- Offers training opportunities to young people and those with learning disabilities
- Increased trainees confidence and their independence has flourished
- Established a tourist information point for visitors to the Borders

Project Aims:

- To provide opportunity for adults with learning difficulties and additional needs to gain skills and confidence to progress to mainstream employment
- Provide an accessible facility for the local community and visitors via Borders Railway at Tweedbank

Project Name: Enterprise Facilitator - Mentoring for Growth

Project Summary

The Mentoring for Growth project was a very successful co-operation between the Exporter's Association, FSB and the Chamber of Commerce. The project saw the development, promotion and delivery of a group mentoring programme designed specifically to improve the skills, knowledge, efficiency of owners, managers or senior staff in the many small and micro businesses based in the Scottish Borders.

Useful Tips

- Small group format worked well to support small and micro businesses
- Non-sector based groups proved most beneficial



LEADER Grant: £48,990.61
Total Project Costs: £48,990.61

Project Aims:

- Employ Enterprise Facilitator to oversee mentoring programme for small and micro businesses in Scottish Borders
- Develop 8 full day sessions delivered over 8 - 9 months covering different topics
- Engage volunteer mentors skilled in each topic to deliver sessions

Achievements

- Greatly expanded the skills and knowledge base required by owners and managers to run a business.
- Opportunities created to implement change in business operation
- Improvement in growth and performance by the businesses who took part
- Enterprise Facilitator employed to deliver project

Participants Feedback

"Participants were unanimous in their assessment on completion; Mentoring for Growth greatly improved their personal skills, knowledge and efficiency and gave them the tools to increase the productivity of their business"

Project Name: Marine SIP – Seabed Interpretation Project

Project Summary

This project employed a full time Marine Reserve Coordinator to facilitate the detailed mapping of the Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR) seabed which established a foundation for future research and monitoring. The survey enabled the development of a ‘virtual visitor centre’ using innovative interpretation techniques to promote the Voluntary Marine Reserve which encouraged engagement, inclusivity and sustainability.

Project Aims:

- Delivery of interpretation tools to create Virtual Visitor Centre
- Encourage engagement and involvement through events, workshops and training opportunities
- Promote the marine resource of the Berwickshire coastal waters further afield
- Promote tourism

Participants Feedback

- *“Really enjoyed spotting the different animals and environments”*
- *“Pretty cool game”*
- *“It is really interesting”*

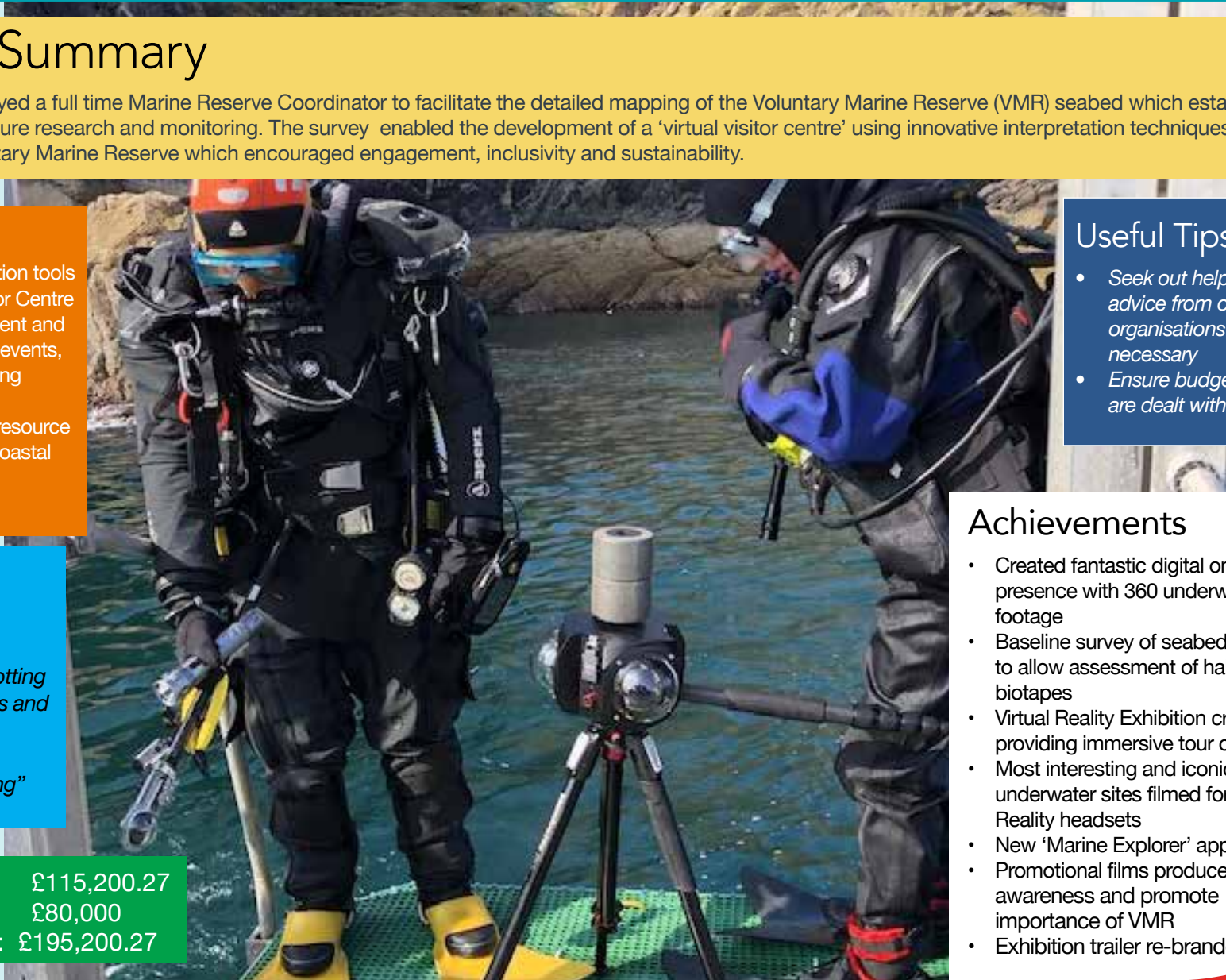
LEADER Grant: £115,200.27
 Match Funding: £80,000
 Total Project Costs: £195,200.27

Useful Tips

- *Seek out help and advice from other organisations where necessary*
- *Ensure budget claims are dealt with timeously*

Achievements

- Created fantastic digital online presence with 360 underwater video footage
- Baseline survey of seabed undertaken to allow assessment of habitats and biotapes
- Virtual Reality Exhibition created providing immersive tour of Reserve
- Most interesting and iconic underwater sites filmed for Virtual Reality headsets
- New ‘Marine Explorer’ app produced
- Promotional films produced to raise awareness and promote importance of VMR
- Exhibition trailer re-branded



Project Name: Galvanising Garvald

[Garvald Home Farm - Home | Facebook](#)

Achievements

- Farm layout is now more practical for production
- Buildings have been extended, refurbished or re-built to increase capacity for usage and productivity
- Increased productivity of organic produce for local consumptions
- Safeguarded jobs and better prospects for further growth and income generation
- Increase in volunteers on the farm helping with growing produce and manual work
- Allows a greater learning experience for school visiting

Project Summary

Garvald Home Farm is a residential care home for service users with learning difficulties that has grown and developed the services offered to residents. The project has improved the farm infrastructure to create a more sustainable future for its residents and customers. This included realigning access, upgrading the farm steading to improve and develop its capacity to produce and take to market sustainable bio dynamic food products. This has also assisted in developing the local food supply chain, creating more employment and supporting skills development and training opportunities.

Useful Tips

- Try to ensure flexibility within budget planning to cover any unexpected costs
- Good project planning is key

LEADER Grant: £147,148.60
 Match Funding: £98,667.92
 Total Project Costs: £245,816.52

Participants Feedback

- *I wish every farm had a cattle handling system Its so much safer and less stressful on the stock*
- *Having the BULL in a proper bull pen makes working with him safer*
- *Being able to butcher our own lambs adds a new dimension*
- *Sense of achievement when lamb is all vacuumed packed*
- *Enabled residents to take part in activities safely*

Project Aims:

- Improving farm's infrastructure
- Create a more sustainable future for the farm
- Improve capacity to supply local market with bio dynamic produce
- Create jobs/learning opportunities

Project Name: Tweed Valley Mountain Bike Development

Achievements

- Achieved specified outputs as anticipated
- Partnership working has secured head of terms for £19m government funding to support MTB tourism in Tweed Valley
- Successfully supported creation of charity Tweed Valley Trail Association (TVTA) who are thriving and manage 9 trails which has ensured the safeguarding of them

LEADER Grant:	£70,711.73
Match Funding:	£52,335.18
Total Project Costs:	£123,046.91

Participants Feedback

This project has helped to continue to develop the Tweed Valley into a globally recognised mountain bike destination whilst working with the community to help the trails sustain the increase in visitors. The profile of the area has grown significantly and the project has helped secure further capital investment which is needed to meet the challenges of increased numbers of visitors. This would not have been possible without Leader funding, whilst the administration of the funding has been a challenge, we would not have seen the positive impact to the area without the funding.

Project Summary

This project was undertaken by Scottish Cycling, through its department Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, to strategically and sustainably develop mountain biking across the Tweed Valley. The project successfully worked across 8 project areas including educating trail users and local community members in the skills of trail maintenance supporting the set up of an organisation, Tweed Valley Trails Association who will work with landowners and land managers to sustain and further develop trails in the area.

The project also supported local businesses to develop their offer to visiting mountain bikers, promoted the destination, and helped secure a number of successful events. Working in partnership with a number of organisations the project led on securing the head of terms for £19m government funding to support MTB innovation and tourism in the Tweed Valley.

Useful Tips

- Invest resource in administrative skills to support project

Project Aims:

- Development and maintenance of trail network across Tweed Valley and support partnership working to build skills of trail riders and local community to undertake trail maintenance
- Support development of sustainable land management plan for Tweed Valley Forest Park
- Develop and promote enhanced MTB packages
- Investigate links to Borders Railways to encourage tourism
- Improve accommodation and facilities to support MTB tourism

Project Name: Re-Tweed Scaled Up

www.retweed.com

Project Summary

This project set up a new source of income by providing 22 paying commercial upcycling workshops for anyone interested in developing skills in a range of different textile areas. It also focussed on developing strategic partnerships with business, industry and academia to broker manufacturing opportunities for ReTweed and become a brand leader in upcycling in Scottish Borders and develop existing product lines to increase revenue streams for the future. A comprehensive Volunteer Development Programme was also delivered to professionalise volunteering through support, supervision, appraisal and performance review and internships offered through partnership with educational agencies.

Project Aims:

- Deliver a wide range of commercial upcycling workshops for local people and visitors to area
- Diversify range of products currently produced by upskilling participants
- Develop partnerships with businesses and industries to build income from manufacturing opportunities
- Deliver volunteer development programme
- Develop brand as leader in upcycling innovation for Scottish Borders

Achievements

- 22 workshops delivered to 148 participants
- Strategic and business partnerships formed with 7+ bodies
- ReTweed Business Model transferred to Dumfries & Galloway area
- 298 learning days delivered across workshops, manufacturing days and training sessions
- Have received environmental, business, and Social Enterprise awards
- Developed business partnerships, manufacturing contracts, an outstanding and 100% positively evaluated commercial workshop programme
- 7 graduates have gone on to set-up their own creative businesses

LEADER Grant:	£28,892.40
Match Funding:	£19,261.60
Total Project Costs:	£48,154

Useful Tips

- Don't under estimate time and capacity required to deliver an ambitious project
- Take advantage of a crisis such as the pandemic to develop blended learning and other activities which can take place online

Project Name: Jedburgh Pool Enhancement

Project Summary

Jedburgh Leisure Facilities Trust is a small social enterprise responsible for running the Laidlaw Memorial Pool in Jedburgh. This project undertook various enhancements to maximise usage of the pool facility. It specifically converted the separate male and female changing rooms into a unisex changing area with more and larger cubicles, created two additional disabled changing rooms, created a bigger soft play area to meet increasing demand, relocated a disabled toilet to a more accessible area and improved heat distribution system and installed an airlock door to swimming pool to reduce energy costs.

Useful Tips

- Be prepared for unexpected costs while refurbishing older buildings
- Spread work out over a longer period to aid cash flow

LEADER Grant:	£151,035
Match Funding:	£210,400
Total Project Costs:	£361,435

Achievements

- Improved efficiency
- Provided more enjoyable experience for users
- Enhanced disabled changing facilities, adding an additional changing room
- Disabled users consider the new facilities excellent for their purposes
- Increased demand despite Covid restrictions

Project Aims:

- Ensure future sustainability of swimming pool and fitness centre
- Provide better facilities to attract more users
- Reduce energy costs
- Provide more productive use of floor space
- Improve and extend services to public

Participants Feedback

"This is a wonderful facility with more space to change in"
"the kids love the new soft play, you managed to get a lot into it"
"The temperature in the gym is now much, much more suitable"



Project Name: Enterprise Facilitator - Social Enterprise Zone

Project Summary

Hosted by Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber (SBSEC), this project enabled an enterprise facilitator to co-ordinate the development activity currently happening across the region, ensuring the best outcomes, avoiding duplication, and developing new skills. It also enabled opportunities to be accessed and achieved to ensure social enterprise is a recognised brand. Through capacity building, Scottish Borders has been transformed, placing social enterprise at heart of the economy and community.

LEADER Grant:	£69,772.20
Total Project Costs:	£69,772.20

Achievements

- Enabled us to be 3rd across Scotland for Social Enterprise only beaten by Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Co-ordinated development activity, improved partnership working and reduced duplication, supporting 180 participants/ organisations, 23 events, Ministerial engagement, development of 10 new social enterprises during the project, supporting wide agendas poverty, circular economy, sustainability etc

Project Aims:

- To employ an Enterprise Facilitator to co-ordinate and develop activity across the area
- Develop new skills and opportunities for social enterprises across Scottish Borders
- Establish a Social Enterprise Zone for inter-trading, collaboration etc



Useful Tips

- Through having great communications with the support that follows is really inspiring when sharing knowledge, best practice, the commitment and hard work is evident and makes a huge difference across the Scottish Borders and beyond coproducing projects/service delivery raising the profile of our third sector and our organisations / communities being regarded as exemplars – the power of networking is invaluable in ensuring that this can be achieved.

Participants Feedback

“The insight into social enterprise work in and around the Borders is really impressive. It excites me to hear what is going on and how many wonderful people feel called to a cause then have the courage to act on it”

“The investment opportunities that this project has created is fantastic, we are forever grateful for the support received enabling us to address our long-term sustainability”

“The range of events/conferences delivered locally and made available nationally has really opened up access to wider support and opportunities”

Project Name: Borders Firewood Employee www.bordersfirewood.co.uk

Project Summary

Borders Firewood specialises in the production of firewood for sale using local wood (as opposed to imported from continent). The applicant could not meet current demand and as a one man business was forced to either cut wood or deliver it causing a Catch 22 situation. This project enabled the applicant to employ another person to enable the business to expand and grow.

LEADER Grant: £12,947.50
Match Funding: £13,127.50
Total Project Costs: £26,075.00

Useful Tips

- Would thoroughly recommend the opportunity of similar funding sources to anyone undertaking similar project

Achievements

- Established a growing business which now employs 3 people
- Looking to employ 4th person during winter 2021
- Provides a reliable source of properly dried logs throughout the region

Participants Feedback

“the LEADER funding was invaluable in enabling the growth and success of the business”

Project Aims:

- Develop business to a scale where it could make a profit
- Recruit, train and upskill local person into longterm employment

Project Name: Kelso Skate Park

Project Summary

Kelso Skate Park is a community group based in Kelso. This project upgraded the existing dilapidated skate park with a new advanced one. The Skate Park is designed to boost local economy as well as providing much needed facilities in the Borders for skaters who are forced to travel to Edinburgh or England currently.

Achievements

- Encouraged community volunteering to assist with small landscaping elements once skatepark in place
- Reduced need to travel to other towns thereby reducing carbon footprint
- Has provided improved recreational space and reduced inequality

LEADER Grant: £107,920
Match Funding: £92,000
Total Project Costs: £199,920

Project Aims:

- Upgrade existing skate provision in Kelso with concrete park
- Increase demand serving Kelso and wider Scottish Borders
- Increase economic benefit of town by bringing in visitors
- Reduce anti-social behaviour

27 Project Name: Learning in a Heritage Landscape

Project Summary

This ambitious project utilised the unique natural heritage of Abbotsford – the home of the 19th century Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott – to facilitate learning and personal development experiences for young people in the outdoors. Working in partnership with local schools, colleges and employability agencies, it supported over 100 people to get ‘hands-on’ with heritage through a range of practical horticultural tasks in the formal gardens and 110 acre estate. For many participants, meaningful life experiences, formal qualifications and opportunities to develop life skills can often be out of reach and hard to access. The passionate staff team created a safe and supportive environment and encouraged participants – regardless of background, ability or prior knowledge – to find their own place there and to make a contribution to shared natural heritage and its care, no matter how small.

Project Aims:

- To increase participants’ appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of Abbotsford and Sir Walter Scott
- To support development of life and employability skills
- To support delivery of formal qualifications through provision of a ‘real world’ learning context
- To further develop the Abbotsford Trust’s community engagement model through benchmarking, experimentation and evaluation

Achievements

- Exceeded targets by engaging with 109 people in total
- Created new working partnerships with local agencies, charities and education providers
- Supported young people with complex needs and those facing barriers to employment to develop confidence and skills for the work place
- The project has enabled the delivery of anew 3 year Learning & Community Engagement Strategy and associated policies by the Heritage Engagement Manager

Participants Feedback

“Overall an absolutely invaluable experience which offered a wealth of learning experiences - plants, conservation, work place”

LEADER Grant:	£41,817.38
Match Funding:	£51,440.50
Total Project Costs:	£93,257.88

Useful Tips

- Access to a dedicated outdoor learning space, tools and equipment was key to the success of this project
- Creating a safe and supportive environment for participants depends on good teamworking, communication, shared goals, careful preparation and readiness to engage on the staff side

Project Name: Eat, Sleep, Ride

www.facebook.com/eatsleeprides/

Project Aims:

- To create a centre of excellence and education
- Create packages for horses and young people
- Develop our own skills accreditation programs
- Enable livery services and re-training/re-schooling of horses to build income
- Build Eat, Sleep, Ride brand on and offline

Project Summary

This project created a social enterprise to assist young people who were faced with social and mental health challenges to build confidence and skills using horses as therapy. Young people are offered lessons and hacking as well as tuition in caring for horses which can lead to progression to BHS accreditation if they choose a career with horses for the future. The project provided arena surfacing for an outdoor school area, field shelter for the horses as well as a quad bike and trailer.

Useful Tips

- Be prepared for materials and labour costs rising plan to have contingency fund
- Add 15% on to all positions to support pay roll etc
- Have your lease checked by an external party
- Understand balance sheets and cash flow have different meanings when capital

LEADER Grant: £17,033.37
 Match Funding: £13,355.58
 Total Project Costs: £30,388.95

Participants Feedback

"OMG what have you done with [redacted] ??? She is a different kid tonight !!! I'm so, so, so, so grateful she has really, really, really benefited from the last two days and she still feels ok (knackered but a good knackered) I think Romeo is the new fave xx I can see a bit of the old [redacted] tonight a new confidence loving the stables when it's quiet chatting away to Nina AMAZING!!! I can't even explain how grateful I am she has turned a wee corner fantastic Thankyou so much xx"

Achievements

- 9 members of staff were recruited since formation
- Original employee graduated as a fellow of the School of Entrepreneurship
- Good partnerships have been forged with local organisations/agencies
- Activities created using the horses such as Diversity Days, Christmas, Halloween and Easter parties, 'Own a Pony' Days
- Scottish Edge Social enterprise awareness and promote importance of VMR

Project Name: Falnash Glamping Pods

www.holidaycottages.co.uk/cottage/75347-falnash-lodge

Project Summary

Falnash Pods is a small micro business diversifying from farming into holiday accommodation at Teviothead, Hawick. The project constructed 2 luxury glamping pods with hot tubs on a site close to the main A7 trunk road. Although situated in a fairly rurally isolated area, the farm is in a prime location providing easy access to local tourist attractions and neighbouring Borders towns.

LEADER Grant: £26,758.00
Match Funding: £26,758.63
Total Project Costs: £53,516.63

Project Aims:

- To provide luxury pods with 4/5* rating in a beautiful countryside setting
- Diversify farm into something unique

Useful Tips

- Time and patience
- Hindsight is an incredible thing – would have been better to have developed 4 pods as originally planned instead of just 2

Achievements

- Farm diversification with creation of two luxury glamping pods
- Attracted more people to area for shops and tourism
- Increased financial benefits to family business

Project Name: Borders Log Cabins

www.castlehillstables.com/accommodation/

Project Summary

Construction of two luxury self-catering log cabins sited on 2 farms in rural area of Peeblesshire. The applicants propose to run the facilities jointly offering transport between sites and to other local providers. The concept relating to transfer of visitors/luggage between accommodation is ideal for walkers/horse-riders/distance cyclists but does not seem to have been tried in the Borders before.

Project Aims:

- Provide 2 luxury self-catering cabins
- Promote equestrian, walking and cycling holidays in rural Peeblesshire area

Useful Tips

- Best decision we have made and only made possible with the support of LEADER.
- Inspired to continue to upgrade our offering from income generated and have a unique offering in the Borders which is very popular.



Participants Feedback

“just back from a lovely holiday at Castlehill. This place is lovely, spotless, clean and had everything and more. It was such a tranquil and relaxing holiday with the most amazing scenery and the horses on the land were just beautiful, my boys loved it. The owners were lovely and checked in daily to clean the hot tub. Will definitely be back”

“just has the most relaxing break at Shiplaw. Our cabin had everything we could wish for and more. The hot tub was an absolute bonus and well maintenance..... I'm booked to return in September and can't wait!”

Achievements

- Two luxury self catering cabins now attracting visitors to the local area and already evidenced them using local suppliers as they visit the Borders and stay for a few nights at a time.
- The cabins have transformed the farms and they are now both income generating for the first time and guests are able to enjoy the countryside and at the same time supporting our local businesses

LEADER Grant: £41,383.34
Match Funding: £109,000
Total Project Costs: £150,383.34

Project Name: Legerwood Steading

www.legerwoodscotland.com

Project Summary

The project converted an old mill building in line with a recently converted cart shed and grain store to provide bespoke, flexible and affordable accommodation for parties of up to 18 people who visit the Scottish Borders for sporting and leisure reasons. The conversion was required to diversify income due to diminishing agricultural subsidies and a volatile agricultural market.

Achievements

- Delivering project on time and on budget
- Year one trading proving positive and repeat bookings and word of mouth enquiries very rewarding
- Way in which project embraced by all involved and feedback from customers an outstanding achievement

LEADER Grant: £50,000
Match Funding: £198,959
Total Project Costs: £248,959

Useful Tips

- Be under no illusion as to time and dedication such a project involves
- Pay for good professional advice if there is something you don't have skills to undertake yourself

Participants Feedback

"Beautiful conversion, stunning location. Gorgeous hacks, happy kids, ponies and adults. We'll be back...."

"You have exceeded our expectations in every way. The bedrooms, seating areas, dining and food were all of an extremely high standard – congratulations!!"

"Blown away! Attention to detail is second to none. Beautiful décor and wonderful hospitality. We will be spreading the word."

Project Aims:

- Diversify farm income sources in order to futureproof a 4th generation family farm
- Fill gap in Borders for private, flexible, luxury ensuite accommodation
- Provide affordable 1st class accommodation for those wishing to undertake leisure activities

Project Name: The Hideout

www.thehideoutbiggar.co.uk

Achievements

- Invaluable source of additional income for farm
- Has provided additional income for other businesses in the area
- Developed social media skills to increase promotional potential
- Created part-time post to cover farming work during busy letting periods
- Accommodation awarded 5* by letting agency

Project Summary

This project developed a luxury self-catering accommodation unit in the form of a 'Hideout/Rural Retreat' with hot tub to extend the letting season.

Useful Tips

- Decide on your target market and focus on that.
- Get accurate costings but ensure you allow for price increases in your budget.

LEADER Grant:	£18,959.57
Match Funding:	£23,479.98
Total Project Costs:	£42,439.55

Project Aims:

- Address lack of holiday accommodation in Broughton vicinity
- Create a unique luxury self-catering opportunity with year round appeal
- Work with local food, drink suppliers and tourist attractions to increase revenue for all

Participants Feedback

"Gifted this stay by our children to celebrate birthdays and 40th Wedding Anniversary. Pod immaculate with everything that was needed. Fantastic views, very peaceful. All we could wish for and more. You are setting a standard that many others fail to meet"

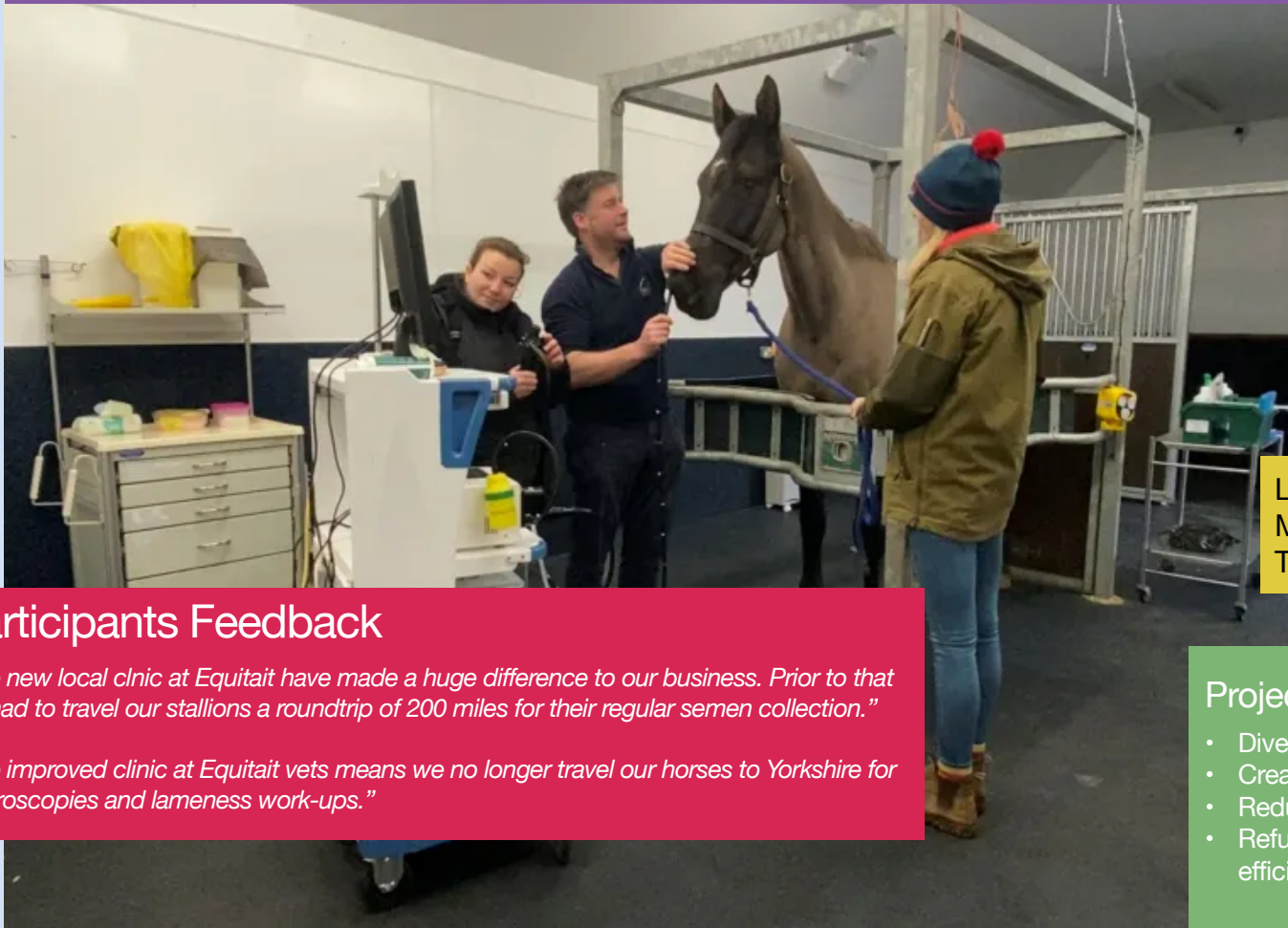
"We had a lovely stay here. This was our first visit to Scotland and the Hideout is ideally situated for visiting and site seeing. The hot tub was brilliant to come back to every evening to relax. Our pod was very clean and well maintained. We are so glad to have picked here to come for our honeymoon"

Project Name: Agritait Equine Clinic

New Practice Premises! | Equitait

Project Summary

Conversion of a semi-disused farm steading into office and equine vet clinical facilities. The facility will be rented out (at market rate) to Equitait Veterinary Practice an equine only specialist vets. Equitait faced a high level of demand for specialist services that they could not meet prior to the development due the lack of clinic based facilities and limited administration space.



Achievements

- Premises now accommodates Equitait Veterinary Practice
- Led to employment of groom/vet technician to care for horses on site and a clinic manager.
- Increased sustainability of the business offering more advanced services.

LEADER Grant:	£47,771.44
Match Funding:	£60,000
Total Project Costs:	£107,771.44

Participants Feedback

"The new local clinic at Equitait have made a huge difference to our business. Prior to that we had to travel our stallions a roundtrip of 200 miles for their regular semen collection."

"The improved clinic at Equitait vets means we no longer travel our horses to Yorkshire for gastroscopies and lameness work-ups."

Project Aims:

- Diversification of farm business
- Creation of additional income stream
- Reduce reliance on government subsidy
- Refurbish unused farm buildings into energy efficient, equine treatment facility

Project Name: Fluffy Moos

www.fluffymoos.com



Project Aims:

- Offer hands-on experience days in aspects of 'farm life'/team building days
- Offer expert training to those already engaged with livestock industry in preparing animals for competition/sale
- Forge links with training organisations to develop skills of those wishing career in livestock
- Forge links with local supplier of produce and accommodation for participants

Project Summary

Fluffy Moos is a farm diversification project put forward by Robert Wilson of Cowbog Farm, near Morebattle. The project set up a centre in a converted stable to teach the skill of cow preparation or "fluffing". This project offers gaining of qualifications in preparing bovines for showing, practical experience for general public wishing to try something new, corporation/group 'team building' activity and education through field to fork dining into the sustainability of Scottish Agriculture.

Achievements

- Adding another string to our bow in precarious agriculture industry
- Utilisation of farming skills and experience into diversified activity
- Knowledge transfer and education

LEADER Grant: £36,927.80
 Match Funding: £37,243.11
 Total Project Costs: £74,170.91

Useful Tips

- The undertaking of the application process enabled us to develop new skills in project planning
- Take your time and don't put yourself under pressure by rushing
- There is no right or wrong time to carry out such a project but you need to prioritise and realise longterm benefit

Participants Feedback

"the LEADER funding has been essential for us to develop a further income source and employment opportunity for the business. Covid 19 has impacted the business as it is based on multihousehold group bookings. To this end we have promoted our field to fork experience in front of group activities recently to maintain employment and income in the meantime. The process has been massively worthwhile and we thank the LEADER team for their assistance"

Project Summary

Convert disused former farm cottages into specialised holiday accommodation for Rural Remedy which will provide Walk and Talk Therapy at Dolphinston Farm, near Jedburgh. The new enterprise is based on a counselling method which is increasing in trend and therefore would expect popularity to gain momentum in the coming years. The project will focus on using local resources and teaming up with local businesses to supply local food and drink.

Useful Tips

- Allow yourself plenty additional time for delays and complications
- The team you work with on a build is so important, we were very lucky to work with our local contractors and architect

LEADER Grant:	£50,000
Match Funding:	£87,680
Total Project Costs:	£137,680

Project Aims:

- To provide suitable accommodation for Walk and Talk therapy holidays
- To provide longterm sustainable accommodation of appropriate standard
- Increase farm profitability for the future

Achievements

- A new income stream for the farm going forward which enabled growth and innovation beyond farming remit
- Provided new job opportunities and capacity to draw in tourists to the Borders
- The success of this project led us on to renovate a further property to expand our accommodation options

Participants Feedback

"the LEADER process helped us build on an initial idea and grow this into a new enterprise. We are looking forward to seeing how it grows over time and works in with our existing farm enterprises"



Project Name: Neidpath Memorial Wood

Manor Sware

LEADER Grant: £20,000
 Match Funding: £28,621
 Total Project Costs: £48,621

Participants Feedback

"LEADER is a huge benefit to such projects"

Useful Tips

- Don't under estimate the time it takes to get diversification projects off the ground

Achievements

- We have been successful in delivering our project aims
- The project has generated public interest
- We have created a new landscape on previously under-used ground
- Diversified an existing farm business and provided a new income stream

Project Summary

This project transformed 2.44ha of grassland on the outskirts of Peebles into a memorial wood for the scattering of ashes. There is no similar facility in the surrounding area, the nearest being Selkirk or Edinburgh, and the project provides a specially designated area where the local community can scatter the ashes of their loved ones and reflect. A pagoda has been erected on the site and the remainder of the area will be planted with native trees to form a natural woodland setting where people can walk or contemplate their loved ones. Those wishing to scatter ashes will have the opportunity to purchase memorial plaques or plant trees in memory of their loved one.

Project Aims:

- Diversification of farm business into another income stream
- Develop unused area of ground for community benefit
- Creation of natural burial site in Peeblesshire area

Project Name: Bloodline Spirits

Bloodline Spirits - The Gin Cooperative

Project Summary

This project provided funding to set up a micro-distillery in Peebles initially producing different flavours of gin. The company chose the name Bloodline Spirits to their direct descendants from the Usher Family who made their money through Usher's Whisky and other alcohols.

Project Aims:

- To produce high quality gin products
- To provide supply for high end retailers, restaurants, hotels and distributors around the globe
- Employ graduate/student from distilling and brewing course to gain job experience
- Support tourism in area



LEADER Grant: £17,757.92
 Match Funding: £29,696
 Total Project Costs: £47,453.92

Participants Feedback

LEADER was a great source of income for any new start up looking to build its business. The staff were all very helpful and were always on hand to guide us with paperwork and milestones

Useful Tips

- *Be prepared to research thoroughly your chosen business as the more information you have will help you in the long run*

Achievements

- Successfully launched Rule Gin in January 2020 with 4 awards in our first year and many shops stocking our brand
- Rebranded the bottles to make them more eco-friendly and visually appealing

Project Name: Eildon Glamping

www.eildonmelrose.co.uk

Project Summary

Eildon Glamping is based at Dingleton, just outside Melrose. The farmstead is located in a beautiful setting at the base of the Eildon Hills and overlooks Melrose. It has easy access to Melrose Golf Course. The project constructed a luxury wooden cabin, complete with hot tub and decking area to provide an alternative glamping experience to the holiday cottage accommodation at the farm.

LEADER Grant:	£36,142.79
Match Funding:	£100,449.32
Total Project Costs:	£136,592.11

Useful Tips

- Building something totally unique has enabled us to stand out from the competition helping secure the continued success of the business

Achievements

- Enabled business to become more financially sustainable
- Safeguarded job
- Sustaining income of contractors used on regular basis

Project Aims:

- Generate additional income from holiday accommodation to sustain for future
- Create high quality wooden cabin accommodation to provide alternative experience

Participants Feedback

"Amazing stay in an unbelievable place. Hands down the most beautiful place we have stayed. Well done Rob you have nailed it. We will definitely be back!"

"We loved every minute of our holiday, made extra special staying in this beautiful lodge so connected to its environment. The view is imprinted in my mind and I'll take the memories home. Thank you, we'll be back"

Project Summary

Overlangshaw Farm is a small farm located between Lauder and Galashiels which diversified into producing ice cream from its own eggs, cream and milk. It sells the majority of its ice cream to restaurants in Edinburgh and through a converted Police Box in the centre of the city. The project increased the production of ice-cream to meet additional demand that the new Police Box and other new business opportunities in Edinburgh have generated.

LEADER Grant:	£43,949
Match Funding:	£43,949
Total Project Costs:	£87,898

Achievements

- New Ice Cream machine doubled production and large freezer room increased storage capacity
- Safeguarded the jobs of 3FTE staff members
- Supports growth of Food & Drink projects in Scottish Borders area
- Created summer jobs for 3 young people
- Branded ice cream box in Edinburgh promotes Scottish Borders produce

Participants Feedback

"LEADER funding has allowed me to scale up my business in all aspects from manufacture to storage to promoting and even selling at events. It has been a massive help financially. I'm delighted with how everything has turned out and look forward to many more years of ice cream life! The team behind LEADER funding have been helpful throughout and I thank them for all their support"

Project Aims:

- Increase production capacity of ice cream
- Purchase new 20 litre ice cream machine
- Build walk-in freezer to store large volumes of ice cream during peak periods
- Increase sales of ice cream
- Increase attendance at local events
- Implement marketing campaign target at trade customers in Lothians and Borders

Project Name: The Byre

<https://www.sykescottages.co.uk/cottage/Northumbria-Northumberland-Jedburgh/The-Old-Byre-1053359.htm>

Project Summary

The project has converted an old byre on a farm steading into a fully accessible self-catering property (above minimum disability access standards). The farm steading is located in a beautiful location with stunning views 3 mins drive or 10 mins walk from the heart of the town of Jedburgh.

LEADER Grant: £50,000
Match Funding: £88,722.58
Total Project Costs: £138,722.58

Achievements

- Appeals to a wide range of people with and without disabilities who want to holiday here
- Encourages people of all ages to explore the Scottish Borders
- Promotes local shops and cafes/restaurants to our guests
- Transformed disused byre into income generating holiday accommodation

Participants Feedback

"Beautiful barn conversion. Furniture and fittings first class. Friendly owners who provided a lovely welcome pack. Accessible features which includes two fantastic wet rooms were excellent for my partially disabled wife"

"My wife is partially disabled and often needs a wheel chair, we have travelled using cottages that say they are wheel chair friendly, but sadly this usually means you can enter the front door only. From the moment we arrived we had a great feeling, the parking area was well thought out and great for getting the wheel chair out of the car we both enjoyed watching the sheep and their lambs from the patio.

The Byre is a breath of fresh air, she could move freely throughout, the shower rooms are wonderful and were easily accessible to her. The décor is of a very high standard as was the wonderful welcome hamper left by Sharon & Jim. We will have no hesitation in recommending, it has been a pleasure to come and enjoy everything about the property and location"

Useful Tips

- *Develop a good relationship with tradesmen to overcome times of crisis*

Project Aims:

- Create a quality experience and accommodation provision to meet needs of disabled visitors/ carers and families
- Collaborate with agencies to ensure project meets requirements
- Create partnerships with local businesses
- Create destination 'hamlet' which people will return to and promote

Project Name: EV Destinations



EV DESTINATIONS

Driving greener tourism

Project Summary

This project undertook feasibility to enable development of an Electric Vehicle Tourism Hub in Scottish Borders. This is similar to the North Coast 500 which has proved to be a hugely successful venture transforming tourism and potential business opportunities around the northern highlands. The project practically tested the feasibility of electric vehicle routes tied into local businesses (tourism/food & drink related).

Participants Feedback

This project was a tremendous success, for the following reasons:

- 1) *Provided an optimal routing for both winter and summer seasons*
- 2) *Enabled a gap analysis between the route requirements and current infrastructure*
- 3) *Proved the feasibility and identified key partners for implementation*

Useful Tips

- Good planning which delivered a project in line with our expectations

Project Aims:

- Provide feasibility enabling information, research and engagement for an electric vehicle tourist car route

LEADER Grant:	£12,000
Match Funding:	£12,000
Total Project Costs:	£24,000

Achievements

- Feasibility undertaken a success
- Proved and validated concept of electric car tourism in Scottish Borders
- Identified renewables based Borders tourism route

42 **Project Name: Eden Valley Cabins** [Eden Holiday Hideaway \(edenholidayhideaways.co.uk\)](http://edenholidayhideaways.co.uk)

- Project Aims:**
- Construct 3 eco-cabins
 - Construct sustainable, low carbon cabins
 - Offer alternative holiday experience to existing accommodation
 - Enable expansion of business to meet demand

Project Summary

This project has further developed the diversity of the applicants small farm which produces organic porridge oats (direct and indirect sales) and holiday cottage self-catering accommodation. 3 new eco-cabins have been constructed in an apple orchard with great views down the Eden Valley, near Kelso. The site also includes easy access to the local river and accommodation is of high quality.



- Useful Tips**
- Finance from Leader was essential to get this project underway.

LEADER Grant: £50,000
 Match Funding: £128,000
 Total Project Costs: £178,000

Participants Feedback

“we stayed during the hot spell in July. The big sliding doors and blackout blinds kept the cabin cool and airy. There was plenty of space for a family of 4 with high ceilings and good sized rooms. Some lovely homely touches: proper coffee machine + beans + grinder, dishwasher + tablets, hand soap at all the sinks, robes for the wood-fired hot tub, homegrown oats and local honey set out for breakfast, not to mention a chilled bottle of Prosecco in the fridge. These touches set Orchard apart from other rentals and we couldn't recommend it highly enough. Great views across rolling countryside. Very peaceful too. Cabin is highly specced with Netflix and good WiFi”

“this is the second time we've visited hideaway. The first was our honeymoon and this worked out on our second anniversary. We enjoyed this stay just as much as the first time. There was a couple of little upgrades that made it that little bit better, not that it needed it. Great location that was nice and peaceful and just a short drive from some nice little towns. Our children can't wait to go back again”

- Achievements**
- Successful build and integration to the landscape of 3 new high quality cabins with hot tubs.
 - Customers very happy and returning.
 - New customers gained by word of mouth from guests and Holiday Hideaways website
 - Created employment for 2fte

Project Name: Dod Mill

Dod Mill | Modern, rustic holiday cottages & cabins in the Scottish Borders

Participants Feedback

We could not have developed the Dod Mill business without LEADER funding – it has been the driver of what's turned out to be an excellent business. We are attracting lots of guests who are specifically looking for "unique stays", we've been mentioned in countless social media posts and have had strong press coverage.

Project Aims:

- Diversification into glamping holiday experience
- Diversification into group accommodation and unique holiday markets
- Attract new visitors to Scottish Borders
- Development of relationships with arts community to host artists residencies and events

LEADER Grant: £50,000
Match Funding: £56,150.89
Total Project Costs: £106,150.89

Useful Tips

*"It seems impossible until it is done!"
The main thing is to keep believing you can do it. There is no doubt that it's a long slog with a lot of paperwork online, but 100% worth it.*



Project Summary

Dod Mill is a smallholding located on the A697 near Lauder. The property consists of the main house (occupied by the applicant), Old Mill (recently converted to self-catering), the Kiln House (a listed building), a converted stone barn (The Bothy) and a series of unique and eccentric accommodation/buildings built by a number of different owners. The project converted the Kiln House into a Cultural space, added a mezzanine to the converted stone barn and upgraded the disused buildings to create glamping/artistic accommodation spaces.

Achievements

- Close to 100% occupancy for The Bothy, Stilt House & Fishing Hut outside of pandemic lockdowns.
- Established entry into unique holiday market (good press coverage)
- 5 group retreats for yoga, meditation and academics held, more booked for 2022
- Created a sustainable, income-generating business which benefits the wider local community in terms of increasing visitors to the area

Project Name: Tweeddogs Dog Day Care Centre www.tweeddogs.co.uk

Project Aims:

- Provide an all-weather indoor facility with large outdoor play and rest areas, as well as kitchenette, toilets and puppy rest room
- Fully serviced water, heating and lighting
- 3 further secure fenced play zones on 1.5 acres of land

Project Summary

TweedDogs provide a safe, fun, social environment incorporating exercise, stimulation and enrichment for dogs during the working week to help alleviate boredom, separation anxiety and behavioural issues. Collection/delivery service from/to owners' homes covering Galashiels, Selkirk, Hawick, Melrose, Newtown St. Boswells, St. Boswells, Midlem and Lilliesleaf.

Useful Tips

- Perseverance – lot of hours involved in paperwork but has secured future prospects of the business and staff
- Thorough research

Achievements

- Introduction of unique concept as first purpose-built dog day care centre in Scottish Borders
- Creation of 4 new jobs and student work placements
- Volunteering opportunities for vulnerable people
- Tripled number of dogs daily attending and customer base seven-fold

LEADER Grant:	£41,972.34
Match Funding:	£42,029
Total Project Costs:	£84,001.34

Participants Feedback

"Great service provided, lovely staff, great facility.... Picked up and dropped off to your home."

"Superb daycare service for my dogs with all the love, care and attention I would give them myself. Many activities, assault courses, sensory garden, indoor area and one-to-one training."

".... I didn't want my dogs stuck in a town or industrial estate facility (as many of my friends have had to as there are no such services like TweedDogs in the areas they live) and was delighted that my dogs could be out in the countryside in the fresh air, as they are in my care. I believe this to be gold standard of care for dogs, and that TweedDogs are leading the way in excellence for dog care, which is very positive for the Borders."

Project Name: Flat Racing Development

Project Summary

AC Whillans run a jump racing stables near Hawick. The project diversified the business into flat racing. This project expanded the capacity of the existing horse racing yard to enable 10 new horses to be trained specifically for flat racing. This extended the racing year and created new job opportunities for young people.



Project Aims:

- Extend capacity within existing racing business
- Develop new business opportunity into flat racing

LEADER Grant: £28,375.12
 Match Funding: £28,375.11
 Total Project Costs: £56,750.23

Achievements

- Stabling provided for 10 new horses
- Increased training capacity of yard
- Employed one new groom/rider with potential for 2 more
- Development to include flat racing boosts income potential all year round

Project Name: Equestrian Theatre

www.lesamisdonno.com



Project Summary

Les amis d'Onno is a micro rural business providing Equestrian-Canine Entertainment. Shows include jousting displays, Wild West, Halloween spectacles and Christmas pantomimes which are held mostly throughout Scotland but also other parts of the UK. A Big Top circus tent was formerly used at the farm which was unsatisfactory. The project constructed a purpose built Equestrian Theatre which enabled indoor shows and training facility throughout the year regardless of weather conditions.

Useful Tips

- More planning is always helpful but there is only so much planning you can do before you begin to build a project

Participants Feedback

"acts like these don't grow on trees"
"seen you perform a few times, always a great show!"
"a high energy theatrical company!"

Achievements

- We have successfully built a horseback archery club for local people
- Locals and tourists have come here for demonstrations and shows
- Following Covid, we began to provide one to one lessons instead of groups
- 2 jobs created and one safeguarded

Project Aims:

- Provide up and running indoor facility for the training of horse and other animals all year round
- Opportunity to host indoor equestrian theatre shows such as spring cabaret, Halloween spectacular and Christmas pantomime
- Ability to hold lessons, clinic and experience holidays

LEADER Grant: £18,649.49
Match Funding: £18,649.49
Total Project Costs: £37,298.98

Project Name: Riddell Estate Visitor Accommodation and Visitor Experience

Riddell Estate | Luxury Accommodation & Wedding Venue Scotland

Project Summary

Development of part of a country house on Riddell Estate to provide a 5 bedroom high quality apartment for holiday accommodation with disabled access on the ground floor. Creation of a bespoke marketing strategy directed at key target markets, as well as extension of an existing 3 bedroom holiday cottage to introduce reduced mobility access. This will help to position the estate's location in the Ale Water Valley as a high quality visitor destination.

Project Aims:

- Long term sustainability of estate
- Generate new income stream
- Creation of fully accessible accommodation for all
- Promote cultural, historical and genealogical influences of the area
- Promotion of local produce through visitor experience
- Improve tourism of area
- Support local businesses
- Provide employment

Participants Feedback

"The owners made us feel very welcome and we relaxed in the lovely surroundings as soon as we arrived. The house is luxurious while also homely and comfortable. The gardens and grounds are very safe for young children to enjoy freedom and space. Everyone loved the outdoor facilities especially the tennis court and croquet garden. We only wish we had booked for 2 weeks instead of 1! We will certainly be back at the first opportunity"

Useful Tips

- Follow all government guidance carefully to avoid difficulties further down the line
- Work closely with booking agents to achieve potential
- Build strong relationships with local suppliers
- Maintain high standards and pay attention to detail in all aspects of the visitor experience

LEADER Grant:	£49,999.93
Match Funding:	£67,300.01
Total Project Costs:	£117,299.94

Achievements

- Provided Riddell Estate with another revenue stream
- Enabled the opportunity to engage and attract new markets to the area
- Enabled collaboration with other businesses via Ale Water Valley Co-operative
- Provided part time employment
- Supported local businesses

Project Name: Nethill Sheepdog Holidays

Useful Tips

- Apply for any Planning Permission well in advance
- Promotion of accommodation to other industries assists with increase of income potential



Participants Feedback

“the lodge is absolutely perfect for ours and our dogs needs. Would highly recommend”

“the location is ideal, in the country but close by to shops. The lodge offers everything you would need and more. It has been well thought out, comfortable and peaceful. The views are amazing”

Project Aims:

- Expansion of existing farming and sheepdog training business to further afield
- Training of handlers and sheepdogs for worldwide competition
- Construction of tranquil accommodation to support the holidays

LEADER Grant: £50,000
 Match Funding: £64,202.60
 Total Project Costs: £114,202.60

Project Summary

Applicant has provided sheepdog training for many years from her tenant farm and is well known worldwide for her sheepdog training. Project created a luxury self-catering facility in order to expand the number and range of activities she can offer to her local, national and international clientele.

Achievements

- Ability to offer luxury accommodation on site which has also increased income stream
- Enabled employment of apprentice and local cleaner
- Accommodation has also attracted attention from fishing/biking holiday makers

Project Name: Old Melrose Green Office Development

Project Summary

The project converted a largely disused part of a farm steading into environmentally friendly office accommodation. The accommodation has been rented out to Tweed Forum on a long term lease. As well as a regular source of income for the estate, the office will have the additional benefit of attracting visitors through environmental activities. The Estate already has a tea room, antiques centre, book shop and holiday cottages. Tweed Forum will benefit from a stable, purpose designed new base from which to run their activities.

Useful Tips

- Undertake good time management

LEADER Grant: £40,949.44
 Match Funding: £100,000
 Total Project Costs: £140,949.44



Achievements

- Local people now have a rural office space from which to work
- Improved income stream to support Estate
- Upgrade of Farm Steading which would have become derelict
- Now able to leverage off new tenant and use their environmental expertise to look at further diversification projects
- Additional income to the Estate is helping to fund further diversification projects including further tourist accommodation.

Project Aims:

- Provide a sustainable diversified revenue stream for Old Melrose Estate
- Re-position as environmental tourist destination with accommodation and visitor facilities in rural setting
- Support existing antiques centre, book shop and tea room on Estate
- Run from renewable energy sources

Project Name: Whitglen Small Animal Hydrotherapy

Project Summary

Development of existing buildings to provide water based rehabilitation for all orthopaedic and neurological conditions in dogs and small animals, as well as learn to swim blocks for puppies, weight loss and fitness programmes to combat increasing obesity issues in pets. This project will create a hydrotherapy pool with drying room, office and toilet facilities which has the support from all vets and animal physiotherapists in the area.

Project Aims:

- To alter use of existing building to income generating stream
- Create state of the art hydrotherapy facility for small animals

Useful Tips

- Be as organised as possible and budget for any possible problems that may arise.

LEADER Grant: £10,000
Match Funding: £10,000
Total Project Costs: £20,000

Achievements

- Unused stable block successfully converted to state of the art hydrotherapy facility
- New business created as a result of support
- Have become recognised treatment centre in the area
- Working in partnership with veterinary practices in rehabilitation treatments
- 2 jobs created

Participants Feedback

"Without the LEADER Grant this would not have been possible for us. Our client base now stretches as far as Stirling and we have been able to turn an existing tackroom into a treatment room for teeth cleaning and behavioural work."

"We have built up a good client base and hopefully an equally good reputation."

Project Name: BLT & Borders Young Creatives

Project Summary

This project supported the development of Borders Live Touring (BLT), introducing a Young Promoters Scheme, called Borders Young Creatives, to help improve access to high quality and enjoyable performances in rural areas. The project encouraged those who do not normally engage to take part in the arts and upskill young people with transferrable skills to better prepare them for long term employment.

Project Aims:

- Providing more people with access to quality cultural experiences in rural areas
- Encouraging those who would not normally engage with cultural experiences to participate
- Enhance learning and training experiences for young people
- Providing young people with opportunity to progress towards accreditation
- Increase economic benefits in rural areas

LEADER Grant: £24,029.26
Match Funding: £50,000
Total Project Costs: £74,029.26

Useful Tips

- Lack of transport is a real issue for projects that are delivered area wide. Due to the rural nature of the Borders, it is essential that adequate travel costs are provided when planning future projects that involve working with and supporting young people in group settings.
- Setting up informal networks and providing networking opportunities must be seen as important element for similar programmes of work.
- The opportunity for people of all ages and creative practitioners to come together and collaborate cannot be underestimated

Achievements

- Engaged with 57 organisations and artists/practitioners
- One young person won a National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) "Young Person of the Year Award 2019" – only person from Scotland who made the shortlist.
- Promoters' Toolkit was produced by the young people to help guide promoters through the process of programming and hosting live arts events
- Hugely increased young people's confidence and self-belief, helping them to become healthier, happier and stronger individuals
- Recognised at national level in June 2021 by Culture Leisure UK

Participants Feedback

"If you have a group that's going on like Borders Young Creatives in your area, you learn so much from it personally, it's not just about helping your community, it's about helping you grow as a person, you learn so much more and it's good for so many reasons, such as your CV, good experience for meeting people, learning how to programme in the arts; you get to visit other places and see things which is really important as you can never know what's good unless you go out and watch things yourself."

Project Name: Oblo Bar & Bistro Lift Project

www.oblobar.com

Project Summary

Oblo Bar & Bistro offers city style eating and drinking in the harbourside area of Eyemouth, popular with all age groups. The owners take great pains to make their customers welcome and are renowned for their high levels of customer service. However, location of the restaurant on the 1st floor had been putting off those with mobility issues. The project sought to address the needs/demands of these customers by installing an energy efficient external lift to the 1st floor restaurant.

LEADER Grant: £11,218.81
Match Funding: £11,218.81
Total Project Costs: £22,437.62

Achievements

- Given access to people with mobility difficulties and disabilities who were not previously able to visit our premises
- Helped increase our footfall year round, with this improved access benefitting our business both during high season and throughout the quieter months

Useful Tips

- If you need help with the application process don't be afraid to ask

Participants Feedback

"The pleasure we see and hear from local customers and visitors who can now visit our business either for the first time, or more easily, has made our investment incredibly worthwhile"

Project Aims:

- Reduce inequalities through improvements to access
- Assist growth and sustainability of the business for the future
- Ensure retainment of existing staff and option to increase employability

Project Name: South of Scotland Golden Eagles Project

Project Summary

The was an exciting and ambitious project between Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway areas to increase the breeding population and range of Golden Eagles in the South of Scotland. This was identified by Scottish Government as a priority for its biodiversity conservation programme. This project released 4 young Golden Eagles into the South of Scotland area which can be monitored through tracking device to ensure the generation of a viable population in the area.

Achievements

- Created awareness of the species in the local area and other species which share its habitat
- Project has inspired large numbers of local people, especially the young, to take an interest and pride in the nature of South of Scotland
- Project has made a difference to the Golden Eagle population and developed really good partnership working between local farmers, landowners, rural businesses and communities
- Tripled the eagle population in the South of Scotland



LEADER Grant:	£146,367.48
Match Funding:	£585,467.40
Total Project Costs:	£731,834.88

Participants Feedback

"What a fantastic resource the Online Eagle School Pack is going to be. Having looked at the first 3 available I can now plan a block of learning around this comprehensive, well-structured and accessible resource"

"Obviously, knowing that you're helping a vulnerable population of Golden Eagles is incredibly rewarding but personally, the most enjoyable aspect of volunteering has been the companionship and camaraderie when we were building the aviaries in 2018"

"My first ever real encounter with a wild golden eagle was in the mid 70's; I was 14 years old on a field trip to Benmore field centre in Cowal in South Argyll. I have been at the sharp end of up-to-date eagle research in this country for many years. I have had literally thousands of encounters with a bird that I still admire and feel privileged to work with. However, that first true encounter, as a boy, still sticks with me as if it was yesterday. I hope that many more people will also have the privilege to be inspired by such encounters"

Project Aims:

- Engage local people and businesses to support successful reinforcement of Golden Eagles population in South of Scotland

Useful Tips

- Ensure budgeting adequately reflects the cost of administration

Project Name: Whiteadder: Heart of the Lammermuirs

LEADER Grant: £205,284
 Match Funding: £54,566
 Total Project Costs: £259,850

Project Summary

Led by Scottish Borders Council, this undertook to explore, understand and interpret the Whiteadder Water. The Council's Archaeology Service and that of East Lothian Council, with AOC Archaeology Group and CMC Associates, worked with local community groups, schools and individuals from the river's source near Garvald (East Lothian) through to near Duns (Scottish Borders) for an area little previously investigated nor widely known. The project identified, investigated and recorded new sites, gathered new information on others with interpretation leading to new websites recording, highlighting and promoting the sites, sights and sounds of the rich and varied natural and cultural heritage of this unique area.

Project Aims:

- Increase understanding and enjoyment of heritage in Scottish Borders and Tyne-Esk areas
- Develop projects, learning and skills in local people and volunteers through archaeological, historical and artistic projects
- Area promotion through on- and off-site interpretation to wider audiences and building links between disciplines



Achievements

- A series of community-based and led investigation and recording projects
- On-site digs and surveys including at Morham Castle, Whiteadder Reservoir, Bothwell Water and Bunkle Edge with exciting findings
- LiDAR identification of over 150 new sites across the area
- Online website and festival presences have provided worldwide promotion of the area's sites, sights and sounds

Useful Tips

- Collaboration is essential
- Splitting projects into milestones and roles useful
- Staff changes and handovers should be avoided
- Admin and data entry time cannot be underestimated, but is crucial and key!

Participants Feedback

"It's a great experience, inspiring, and the people running it so supportive and knowledgeable"
"It revealed to me another dimension to my understanding of the landscape in which I live. It was fascinating to learn from experts in this field. I gained a new perspective... It was also fun and healthy!"
"Really friendly, good and inspiring experience and learned so much, very positive for creative people."

Project Name: Co-operation Projects Led by Other LAG Areas

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Scottish Borders Access Project: Phase 1

Led by Tyne-Esk

LEADER Grant: £29,795 (50% - 2 areas)

Total Project costs: £29,795

Employ a Consultant to undertake feasibility to plan and cost 3 long distance strategic routes linking Tyne-Esk and Scottish Borders plus 2 smaller path networks in Gorebridge and Stow.

Aim: Bring more people into rural parts of Scotland; Encourage more day tripper tourists to Scottish Borders and Tyne-Esk via railway link; develop pathway networks in both areas

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Midlothian & Borders Tourism Action Group Marketing Project

Led by Tyne-Esk

LEADER Grant: £149,157.57 (50% - 2 areas)

Total Project costs: £149,157.57

Secured resource and services to build and deliver digital tourism destination marketing activities across Scottish Borders and Tyne-Esk areas.

Aim: Promote both regions as destination of choice; increase impact of visitor economy; encourage longer stays with visitors online; build destination content hub to showcase areas; build skills to deliver quality marketing programme

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Crowdfunding Coaches

Led by Forth Valley & Lomond

LEADER Grant: £442,390 (11% - 9 areas)

Total Project costs: £442,390

Create legacy by increased capacity in Crowdfunding techniques and skills across the 9 LEADER areas to support longterm resilience of local businesses and communities.

Aim: Create small team of Crowdfunding Coaches across each area; raise awareness of crowdfunding; run training courses; support individual project campaigns.

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Regional Food Assemblies

Led by Forth Valley & Lomond

LEADER Grant: £236,830.40 (25% - 4 areas)

Total Project costs: £236,830.40

Delivered by Forth Environment Link, this project took forward the setting up of 'Food Assemblies' in each area which connects consumers direct to local food suppliers via a digital platform.

Aim: Build resilient communities; improve local food systems; increase capacity within host organisation; increase economic growth for food and drink producers; increase employability; increase availability of local and seasonable food.

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Rural Youth Project

Led by Rural Peth & Kinross

LEADER Grant: £221,170 (20% - 5 areas)

Total Project costs: £221,170

Delivered by Rural Youth Project, this project engages with young people to develop and deliver activities for vulnerable young people in rural communities.

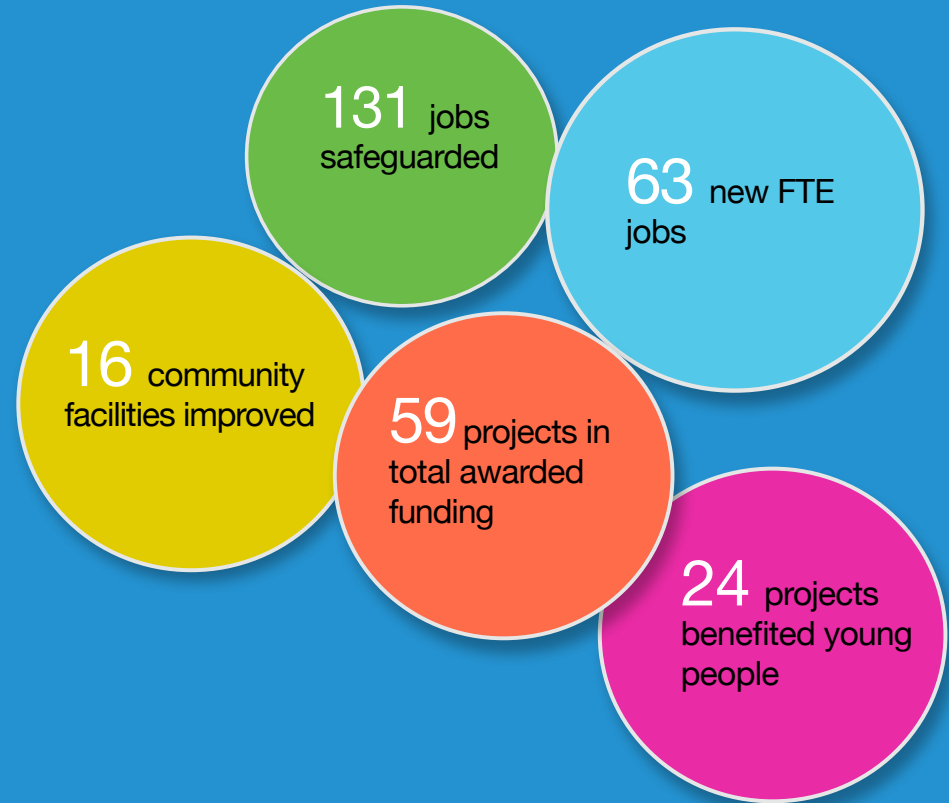
Aim: Work with young rural people from all sectors; develop leadership and enterprise skills; encourage movement and link-up resources to connect young people to services and funding; facilitate sharing of ideas between places; connect multi generations and young leaders.

Chairs Note – Future

At present there is still no firm confirmation as to what may replace LEADER in the future although many discussions are taking place at Scottish Government and UK Government level. Both Governments are undertaking test of change programmes at the moment to test out new processes for future delivery and partnership working. Our Local Action Group and local MSPs are very committed to assisting with discussions to shape the rural development in Scotland for the future. The huge benefits of LEADER type funding are very well documented and acknowledged and we are hopeful that alternative funding will be confirmed in the very near future.

We are extremely proud of what has been achieved during this round of LEADER funding, and the dedication and hard work of all those involved given the very difficult circumstances imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic. All applicants pulled out the stops to deliver these projects to an extremely high standard, and this will provide a lasting legacy for all to participate and enjoy in the future.

Gary White, Scottish Borders LAG Chair



LEADER Team

Linda Cornwall, Co-ordinator
Simon Lynch, Facilitator
Joanna Pringle, European Programme Support Officer
Nesta Todd, European Programme Support Officer
Gail Blacklock, European Programme Support Officer
Bartje Magee, European Programme Support Officer
Fiona McDougall, Co-ordinator

Local Action Group

Gary White, Environmental (Chair)
Hans Watl, Small Business Network (Vice Chair)
Gordon Harrison, Community Councils Network
Luke Comins, Tweed Forum
Lesley Forsyth, Scottish Borders Council
Jules Horne, Creative Arts
Annabelle Scott, Micro Business
Heather Batsch, The Bridge (Borders Third Sector Interface)
Ian MacDonald, National Farmers Union
Andrew Mitchell, BCCF Environmental
Andrew Panter, Scottish Natural Heritage
Clare de Bolle, Youthborders
Frank Beattie, Scottish Enterprise
Ian Tod, Eyemouth Hippodrome
John Dougan, FCS
John Henderson, Born in the Borders
Bryan McGrath, Scottish Borders Council
Douglas Wilson, VisitScotland
Bosco Santimano, You Can Cook
Paula Ward, VisitScotland
Jane Rosegrant, Borders Forest Trust
Carol Byers, AdsVantages
Will Haageland, Selkirk Chamber of Trade

