



End of Award Reports

Examples of projects and activities from a range of successful applicants from Drummuir, Mulben and Keith.



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Boharm SWRI received £265 to fund the group's annual outing

Visits to local points of interest have long been much enjoyed features of the SWRI calendar. The Boharm group organised an outing to a local bakery to see the business in operation, enjoy a talk about the history of the bakery and sample a few of the local delicacies!



The evening visit is a highlight of the summer events calendar which enables the group to invite a neighbouring SWRI group. Socially, this is important to the members as it is also an opportunity to involve members from differing age groups - from late 20's to mid 80's.

The group insist that the visit helps foster community spirit – particularly important in the more remote rural communities.

The visit was organised by the group and the grant was used to meet the cost of transport and refreshments.

“We are all looking forward to the new year with renewed enthusiasm, and plans are already being discussed regarding a further combined outing next year – such was the success of the one this year”.

Elizabeth Harrop Secretary, Boharm SWRI



Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust received £21,762 to fund updating of the village hall facilities

The village hall is central to the life of most communities and Drummuir is an example of a thriving local asset well used by much of the community. The Trust oversees the management of the hall and is charged with the task of ensuring that the facility is fit for purpose in all respects.



The grant was used to carry out a programme of upgrades to the hall and facilities including specialist sound proofing, wood panelling the provision of kitchen and catering equipment. The refurbishment organised by the committee was to ensure that the hall was well used into the future and could create an income by offering the venue as a great location for functions, meeting and private events.

“The Community Trust was delighted to receive a grant which has been put to good use in maintaining the fabric of the hall so that it could continue to be the hub of the community”.

James Mark, Chair, Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust



Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust received £5,980 to fund control work & schools educational project

Managing the rivers banks is a continual fight against invasive non-native plants which present a serious threat to our own flora and fauna. This long term commitment to dealing with the problem is the task of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust along with innovative project work with local schools.



For the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust the annual job of spraying the riverbanks is both expensive and demands huge amounts of time. The grant enabled the Trust to meet some of the cost of the work on the three rivers through 2013.

The Trust is very keen to give local school pupils the opportunity to see first hand the river environment and has pioneered educational visits culminating in the release of salmon into the rivers

“The Trust appreciated the grant as it has greatly helped us to carry out our invasive non-native species control on the River Isla system. The schools within the catchment area are also very grateful & I know that the children really enjoy looking after the salmon and going out to the burns to release them, hopefully taking with them some knowledge and enthusiasm for our natural world”.

Robin Vasey, Project Officer, Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust



Drummuir 21 received £10,000

To fund a Feasibility, Design and Costing Exercise for the Isla Way Path Extension between Drummuir and Keith

Drummuir 21 is a registered charity with the aims to: encourage and promote the construction and restoration of a network of footpaths within the Drummuir area, for local people and visitors and to encourage greater participation in the activities of walking or cycling; to advance the education of the public regarding environmental issues and sustainable development.



The project was to assess the existing Isla Way and in particular the section between Drummuir and Auchindachy which currently involves users of the path having to walk on the public road. The project was needed in order to assess whether further work should be undertaken in building the path, and indeed whether it is practically possible, given the varying land uses and ownerships along the route.

“Drummuir 21 has found the grant scheme to be straight forward to apply to and has appreciated the ability to discuss the application through the REAP office.

The grant has enabled Drummuir 21

- To obtain evidence of the contribution that the completion of The Isla Way could make to the health of the local community through encouraging activity*
- To demonstrate the economic benefit of extending a Core Path that will contribute to the attraction of KDR, the heritage railway to tourists and residents*
- To explore the social benefit of linking a number of communities through a path network*
- To consider the contribution that the path will make to the public’s understanding of, and access to, the countryside*

This information will permit the partnership led by Drummuir 21 and The Moray Council to consider the viability of proceeding further with the initiative and, if viable, to approach potential funding bodies.”

Priscilla Gordon-Duff, Chairman Drummuir 21, SC030342



Drummuir Bowling Club received £1,900 to fund the purchase of coaching bowls

Bowling is a sport for all ages and abilities and nowhere is this demonstrated better than at Drummuir Bowling Club. Based at Drummuir village hall, the club provides indoor bowls coaching and competition particularly for pupils from the local primary school.



Taking up a new sport should always be done using the best equipment available. For junior bowls players this makes necessary the use of smaller sized coaching bowls which are easier to handle than the full sized version.

Such has been the success of the club that the children and parents have taken part in coaching sessions at Keith Bowling Club – another successful Hill of Towie Grant Scheme applicant!

“The grant was used to purchase coaching bowls which will be well used and will be a valued asset in promoting bowling amongst the younger generation for many years to come”.

Jim Bell, Member & Coach, Drummuir Bowling Club



Keith & Dufftown Railway Association received £3,222 to fund station building repairs

Keith & Dufftown Railway Association is rightly regarded as one of the major visitor attractions in the north east of Scotland. With an impressive range of rolling stock to view and a scenic line through “Malt Whisky Country” visitors to KDRA are guaranteed a day to remember!



The association has successfully attracted many visitors from all around the world which in turn raises expectations and needs. Focal points are the stations at either end of the line. The Dufftown station has been restored by members and now boasts a booking office, waiting room and information area. The very popular “Buffer Stop” café is a feature of the platform.

The grant was used to repair the roof of Keith Town Station using, as far as possible, authentic period materials. These materials proved difficult to source but the search and the wait was worthwhile as the station has been restored close to its original condition.

“KDRA are very grateful for the award which allowed the association to improve facilities for passengers and visitors alike”.

Steve Rhodes, Director, Keith & Dufftown Railway Association



Keith and Dufftown Railway received £2320 to fund painting of the Keith station building

Following on from the repairs to the station roof, Keith & Dufftown Railway Station made a successful application for funding for repainting the station building.



The station really looks good and has generated lots of compliments from passengers.

“There are lots of improvements to the railway that we would like to make but, as is usual with voluntary organisations, lack of money always restricts what one can do. The assistance we have received through REAP has allowed us to make much needed improvements to the railway infrastructure when it is needed.”

This year’s repainting and last year’s roof repairs have all been done thanks to the Hill of Towie Wind Farm Grant Scheme. This remedial work not only provides an improved experience for our visitors and passengers but a boost for our volunteers.”

Steve Rhodes, Director, Keith & Dufftown Railway Association



Keith Bowling Club received £4,500 to fund green maintenance, coaching courses and scoreboard

Located at the heart of the town, Keith Bowling Club is a focal point for sport for all ages and abilities. Indeed, the club has a long history of encouraging young people and families to take up bowling. The social element is important to the club and large numbers of spectators and social members make good use of the clubhouse facilities.



Keeping the green in match perfect condition requires a year-long programme of maintenance. Part of the grant was used to purchase and install a new sprinkler system. A new scoreboard – which lets spectators know that KBC are winning the match! – was purchased to replace a tired and unappealing one.

A further priority was adding to the number of qualified coaches within the club which ensures that new and experienced members can improve their game. The grant funded six club members attending a coaching course.

“The grant was used to maintain the greens which, of course, are at the heart of the club’s activities. The coaching courses are an investment in the future and the scoreboard creates a good impression of the club”.

Kevin Thain, President, Keith Bowling Club



Keith Community Council Christmas Lights Committee received £5000 to fund buying lights and new brackets for across Mid Street and along the A96 in Keith.

The Christmas lights committee is a small group of volunteers who decorate real Christmas trees with lights, put them up in Keith and Fife Keith and also take them down when the festive season is over. As there are quite a few older people involved in doing this a decision was made to try and purchase across the street lights for Mid Street. Fife Keith will in the meantime carry on having the real trees on display.



The money was spent on new lights and brackets to be fitted onto Mid Street to attach the lights to. The grant has made a tremendous difference to us, making it safer and quicker to put up the lights.

“The lights should last for up to ten years apart from any bulbs that need replaced. The Christmas lights on display are for the benefit of Keith and all who visit Keith. We have had positive feedback so far from people saying look really good especially when you look up at them from either the top or bottom of the street.”

Susan Hutcheon, Keith Christmas Lights Committee



Keith Primary School PTA received £1,300 to fund an outdoor activities course

Growing up in the community is a time for many youngsters which can prove to be a hard journey. Many primary schools organise additional activities which aim to build confidence, highlight respect for others and the need to share. To get the best out of this idea the format usually combines teambuilding exercises and outdoor activities which challenge the pupils physically, socially and emotionally.



Fortunately, in Moray a very experienced social enterprise was able to provide a range of exciting and fun sessions for the pupils. The Keith Primary School PTA regards this project as not only building the confidence and self-esteem of the individual pupils but an investment in good citizenship for the future.

“The series of activities was very well organised and children found them exciting, demanding and great fun. This is an investment in individuals who will, in the not too distant future, be the backbone of the community”.

Ishbel Kemp, Chair, Keith Primary PTA



Keith Community Radio received £2,400 to fund the purchase of a broadcast licence fee

Broadcasting on 102.8FM, Keith Community Radio serves Keith and surrounding area with a delightful mixture of news, music, sport and features with that local touch. Manned entirely by volunteers aiming to produce a professional service the radio station has a loyal following and goes from strength to strength.



In 1997 KCR decided to become a stand-alone community radio station rather than an associate of the Moray Firth Network. This change would allow very welcome increased broadcasting output but would entail the application of an annual broadcast licence from OFCOM.

The grant funding was used to meet the cost of the legally required broadcast licence. Although this item of expenditure is neither high tech nor photogenic it is a very essential and expensive item of the annual running costs.

“KCR aims to be at the heart of the community and has established strong links with the community council, local schools and community groups .The grant has helped the station meet the cost of “going live” over the next year and meet our ambitions for the community ”.

John Seivwright, Chairman, Keith Community Radio



Keith Community Radio received £6,000 towards funding the purchase of a transmitter

Come October 2014, listeners to KCR will hear a new call sign. “Welcome to KCR 107.7FM” will let listeners know that KCR have met conditions set down by Ofcom when an independent Community Radio Licence was awarded to the station. Since then, KCR has succeeded in raising the funds to purchase, and have installed the necessary transmitter to use that 107.7 frequency.

The award from the Hill of Towie Community Fund was added to European Funding accessed through LEADER, along with the results of KCR’s own fundraising. Funds have also been raised to enable upgrading of some of the station’s equipment, including a mixing desk, head-phones and microphones.



“The new licence will enable the station, in time, to extend its broadcasting hours, and there are plans afoot to add to the range of programmes, including more speech-based shows and more direct links to local, community-based organisations. The new licence will also entitle KCR to sell advertising to help fund its activities. A particular priority will be offered to smaller companies who don’t normally have access to the airwaves.”

John Calder, Secretary, Keith Community Radio



2nd Keith Scout Group received £1,700 to fund the purchase of a marquee

The Scout movement has for over a hundred years been a cornerstone of most communities in Scotland. The 2nd Keith Scout Group serves not only the youth of the town and surrounding area but plays a vital part in the community. A very worthwhile and appreciated service is the provision of a marquee at local events which serves as an insurance against the typical Scottish summer!



The 2nd Keith Scout group has for many years made available their very large marquee for many community functions including the town show and many sporting events. However, like all items of equipment wear and tear is inevitable despite regular care and maintenance. Both ends of the group's present marquee were deteriorating badly and replacement canvas was desperately required.

With a new marquee purchased the group is able to provide cover from the elements at community events through the year – and who better to put up a big tent than the Scouts!

“Our Scout group has always been delighted to help local groups and support community functions. The new equipment allows us to continue to do this in some style”.

Logie Gray, Group Scout Leader, 2nd Keith Scout Group



2nd Keith Scout Group received £12,000 to fund the refurbishment of kitchen and storage

2nd Keith Scout Group is a thriving group which has 65 members. To encourage more people to use our facilities we required to upgrade our kitchen and storage



The grant was spent on replacing the existing kitchen units and sink units with new. A suspended ceiling was fitted for insulation. The old metal racking was replaced by cupboards with sliding doors.

Since the completion of the kitchen more interest has been shown in the use of the building.

“We have found the grant form easy and straight forward to use. Without the grant it would have taken the Group along time to raise the funds and we would have to use time and resources set aside for the members of the Scout Group.”

Logie Gray, Group Scout Leader



Keith & District Sports Trust received £7,000 to fund the purchase of a spectator safety rail and lawn mower

The Keith & District Sports Trust manages an all ability sports ground on behalf of the community. Taking inspiration from the interest in sport generated by the Olympics the Trust has embarked on a programme of facility improvements.



Following consultation with user groups an agreed high priority was the purchase and erection of a spectator safety rail. This would define the spectator area and increase the safety element for all attending the popular community sports events.

Another priority was the purchase of a modern lawn mower to replace aging and unreliable machinery. Proactive ground maintenance demands the use of quality machinery but the resulting excellent facilities ensure increasing use by local sports clubs.

“The grant which provided a new spectator safety rail at the Alexander Simpson Community Park has greatly enhanced the spectator experience. The replacement lawn mower will ensure the ground is kept in good condition for local and visiting competitors for some years to come”.

David Ross, Secretary, Keith & District Sports Trust



Keith Grammar School Parent Council received £800 to fund Summer Club 2014

Fifteen P7 and S1 Keith Grammar pupils with additional support needs took part in a programme of sporting challenges; outdoor activities; and excursions to places of interest. The broad aim was to equip each child with key life skills such as confidence, perseverance, teamwork, and tolerance so that they could cope effectively with the social and emotional aspects of school. Pupils were supported and encouraged by adults from various professional backgrounds.

Members of the Summer Club were fully involved in the planning process, with most suggestions incorporated into the busy itinerary.



Describing their days with the Summer Club, pupils used words such as 'awesome', 'unforgettable', 'the best time ever' and 'I really liked the ice-cream!'. Feedback from parents confirms that the programme provided a positive experience for the participants and their families.

"After taking part in the activities, we consistently see an improvement in the resilience, communication skills and academic attainment of our pupils. They develop positive attitudes, build supportive relationships and learn how to identify and manage risks. This enables them to thrive in the classroom and beyond. It is no co-incidence that the P7 pupils who participated in the programme have all made a terrific start at the Grammar."

Alex Fordyce, Keith Grammar School Summer



Mulben Picnic Committee received £2,000 to fund the annual firework display

With a history stretching back to its origins as an amenities committee providing a picnic day out for local residents, the Mulben Picnic Committee now stages one of the best community firework displays in the north-east. The event is the community's major social function and acts as a fund-raiser for other local events.



Staging a firework display is not only hugely expensive but all the hard work by volunteers can be undone by inclement weather on the night. As a consequence, the following year's event is at risk as it is dependent upon donations on the preceding year. The Mulben Picnic Committee used the grant to fund the 2013 event – thankfully held on a dry evening! – and now has collected donations available for the following display.

“The grant has given the committee confidence to stage the firework display this year without worrying about whether the event could fund next year or even break even. Happily, the 2013 event was a great success with visitors and locals enjoying the display”.

Brian Wright, Vice-Chairman, Mulben Picnic Committee



Mulben Picnic Committee received £ 25,000 to fund Play Equipment.

The Mulben Picnic Committee was originally set up to raise funds to take children from Mulben School to picnic on the coast every year. Since the closing of the school it has become responsible for the playing field in Mulben and organising the annual fireworks display.



Before



After

The grant was used to purchase and install; swings, a slide, adventure trail, a roundabout, bouncers and a slide for use by the children in the local area as the nearest playpark was five miles away.

Since being installed the park has been used regularly by children and with the improving weather should be used more frequently.

“The grant scheme has allowed us to have a playpark in the local community after several years without one after it was removed by the council due to safety concerns.”

Keith Comrie, Mulben Picnic Committee



Newmill Community Association received £1,000 to refurbish Christmas street lights

Nothing brightens up dark December evenings more than the cheery twinkle of Christmas lights hung down the main road. Newmill Community Association has for many years erected and maintained their display lights. Recently, however, their equipment desperately needed to be replaced.



Unfortunately, the replacement costs for new sets would prove to be prohibitive. Not to be beaten, the community rallied and a small team of volunteers got together to refurbish the existing lights. Adding an environmental touch to the project the group replaced ordinary light bulbs with low energy LED ones and the result was low cost and spectacular!

“The refurbishment of the Christmas street lights was a great community effort demonstrating what can be done when everyone pulls together. The Christmas 2013 street lights were very impressive and we are quite proud of our achievement”.

Rhona Patterson, Vice-Chair, Newmill Community Association



Newmill Hall received £6,000 to fund improvements and renovation

Newmill Hall, along with the primary school, forms the heart of the village and is a well used meeting point and community centre. The management of the property falls to the Hall Committee who aim to provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment to host activities and events for all the community.



A programme of restoration and improvements started with the installation of an innovative pellet fuelled heating system. With the hot water sorted the committee's attention turned to other equally important issues including disabled access, kitchen design and toilet facilities.

The grant funds were used to provide an access ramp to the entrance, a community kitchen to catering standards and a total rebuild of the very dated toilet facilities.

“Newmill Hall has been completely transformed from a cold and unwelcoming building to one where community groups meet and take part in activities in a safe and pleasant environment. The community is very proud of its hall and it is regarded as a great asset in the village”.

Rod Lovie, Newmill Hall Committee Member



Newmill Renewables CIC received £ 3,000 to fund purchase of solar panels

Newmill Renewables CIC is a community interest company which owns and operates a biomass heating scheme for the village hall and nearby school.

The project was to install solar panels to the hall as this would help contribute to the electricity needed to pump the hot water to the hall and school. Furthermore any profit from the panels will help cover the running costs of the boiler.



“The grant contributed to a solar panel array at the Newmill Hall. This complements our biomass boiler as some of the electricity is used to power the electric pumps which the boiler requires.

This helps to make the hall self-sufficient with the profit from the electricity produced paying for electricity used and contributing to the expenses in running the boiler.

The grant scheme was simple to use and made the project possible.”

Rodney Lovie – Director Newmill Renewables CIC



Parents of Botriphnie received £950 towards the St Fumac's Scarf Project

The Parent Council of Botriphnie Primary School applied for funds towards their St Fumac Scarf project.

Each scarf has a card detailing how they were made and giving information about St Fumac to provide a unique touch. The scarves have sold out and a further order has been placed due to high demand.



The award helped the children of the school complete their marketing strategy through producing a video. The video can be viewed by searching YouTube for 'Botriphnie ad' or on a news post on the REAP website dated January 2015.

The schoolchildren of Botriphnie Primary have been involved throughout the project, from visiting the woollen mill and helping develop the design, to learning production, sound, filming and acting during production of the video.

"The St Fumac Scarf project has been a great success. The children designed and contributed at each stage of the project and learned lots of new skills. We would like to thank the HoT Wind Farm Community Fund for their support. It is greatly appreciated."

Joan Ross, secretary



Royal Northern Countryside Initiative received £2,750 to fund a Farmers' Market for pupils from Keith Schools

The market was attended by over 450 pupils from the Grammar School plus almost 100 pupils from St Thomas, Crossroads and Rothiemay Primary Schools, where the pupils had the opportunity to experience aspects of local food production and farming in a selection of activities, along with members of the local community.

The grant was spent on Project Manager costs, transport costs for schools, marquee hire, information leaflets and volunteer expenses.



Pupils try their hand at apple juicing with John Hancox, Scottish Orchards

“We had a really good turnout and a great team of enthusiastic volunteers helped to put on such a great event. It was good to see such a good number of parents attending. Building bridges and an understanding between farmers, producers and the pupils, who are the consumers of the future, is crucial and is a message that RNCI aims to deliver with School Farmers’ Markets.”

These events are an effective and fun supplement to a farming or healthy eating topic in school and support Curriculum for Excellence, and we are delighted that the Hill of Towie Community Fund chose to support the project.”

Rachel Heydon, RNCI Project Manager



Strathisla Pipe Band received £2,750 to fund the purchase of new musical instruments

In July 1919 a group of 14 veterans of the Great War clubbed together, and with the help of a £10 donation from Keith Town Council and a little over £40 collected in the town, established "Strathisla Pipe Band". Today the band is a firm favourite in the community but running costs are far more than the founders would have anticipated!



Throughout the year the band plays at many local and community events including the annual Remembrance Day service and the switching-on of the Christmas lights in the town.

The band used the grant to purchase 25 pipe chanters to permit newly recruited members of the band to learn to play the pipes. In addition, the band purchased 25 pipe bag covers which will help continue the band's "smart as paint" reputation.

"The grant will help the band provide good quality tuition particularly for youngsters keen to learn to play the pipes. Additionally, the new bag pipe covers will keep the band's appearance at a high standard".

Gordon Largue, Chairman, Strathisla Pipe Band



The Loft Youth Project Cafe received £5764.48 to part fund the refurbishment of our cafe bar.

The Loft Youth Project is a one stop shop for young people in Keith and rural areas. We offer a variety of activities, training and volunteer opportunities in a safe non-judgemental environment to all young people who access our project. After our flood damage, we wanted to turn a negative into a positive by renovating our worn out cafe bar into a more modern cafe bar where we can provide training and experience for young people.



We used the Grant to have a major refurbishment of our cafe bar. Our old cafe bar was completely ripped out and along with our young people we designed our new cafe bar. The grant allowed us to purchase the cafe bar (work tops, drawers, cupboards, splash back) including lights, fridge, sinks, taps and water heater.

This Grant has given The Loft Youth Project a new lease of life. Young People love to volunteer in our cafe and gain experience. All Community Groups who hire our hall benefit greatly from our new cafe bar.

Our open day/re-launch was a great success with over a 100 people attending and the feedback from the Community was very positive.

Quote from one young person was: *“Wow OMG this place looks so fab!!”*

Emmy age 14

