

# CLYDE (DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY) COMMUNITY FUND

Ten years  
of benefiting communities  
in Nithsdale  
2012 - 2022



Foundation  
Scotland



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# ABOUT THE FUND

Clyde Windfarm (Scotland) Ltd is a joint venture partnership between SSE plc, Greencoat UK Wind Plc and GLIL Corporate Holdings Ltd. The Clyde (Dumfries & Galloway Community Fund benefits 12 community council areas in Dumfries and Galloway: **Carronbridge, Closeburn, Durisdeer, Johnstone, Kirkconnel and Kelloholm, Kirkmichael, Kirkpatrick Juxta (Beattock), Moffat & District, Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District, Thornhill, Wamphray and Wanlockhead.**

The fund opened in 2012, an annual amount of £155,000, index-linked, will be paid into it for the operating life of the wind farm, with each community allocated a 1/12th share. In 2021, the annual contribution to the fund was just over £190,000 with each community receiving about £16,000.

The fund made its first awards in August 2012. In the 10 years since then, it has distributed a total of **£1,454,055** to initiatives bringing benefit to the local community. This report provides some highlights from the fund's first ten years and spotlights some of the projects supported.



# WHAT ARE THE FUND'S PURPOSES?



## **Enhance the quality of life and promote people's well-being**

This includes support for the provision of new or improved facilities and open spaces for physical and leisure activity; and to provide opportunities for us to participate, progress and achieve in sport, recreation and community activities which benefit our health and well-being.



## **Promote community spirit and bring people together**

This supports activity that helps us to become more connected; for example through projects which promote effective communication, collaboration, sharing of ideas and information, skills and assets and which bring people together.



## **Foster vibrant, sustainable communities**

This supports activity which aims to make best use of our community assets such as village halls and community centres, community-led housing, and our heritage and landscapes; increases and supports volunteering opportunities; maximises our ability to flourish economically, for example, by ensuring equity of access to services, training and opportunities; and by focusing on sustainable best use of local skills and resources.



The fund meets its purposes by making grants to support the costs of relevant projects, services and facilities, for example, running costs for local groups and staff, consultations and feasibility studies, events and festivals, the cost of purchasing equipment, maintenance or refurbishment of community owned buildings etc.

# HOW IS THE FUND MANAGED AND DECISIONS MADE?

The fund is held and managed by a charity, Foundation Scotland. Although the foundation receives and assesses applications, a community panel, comprised of people who live, work or actively volunteer in the twelve communities, decides on awards from the fund.

The advisory panel has representation from all twelve areas in the form of two named representatives per community. These representatives are mandated in this role by the nine community councils, two trusts, and one village committee that have signed the fund's Memorandum of Understanding. The panel meets twice a year in March and September.

A small proportion of the fund is distributed locally, in the form of 'micro-grants' of up to £250 each, through a scheme administered directly by participating community councils.

# THE FUND'S IMPACT OVER 10 YEARS



238 projects supported



£1,529,073  
committed to local  
projects



£76,000 in micro grants  
awarded



£6,149,828 of matched funding  
drawn into the area

# SPOTLIGHT ON - CARRONBRIDGE HALL FUND

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £80,219**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £76,021**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Carronbridge Village Hall is the main community facility in the parish. The Clyde (D&G) Community Fund has supported projects to replace the roof and windows in the hall, refurbish the kitchen, main hall floor and redecorate its interior. There have also been contributions from the fund towards planning fees, hall light fixtures, a first aid kit, and running costs such as insurance, cleaning services and utility bills.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Everyone in the Carronbridge area, as well as hall users from the surrounding areas, over 360 people, will benefit from the roof replacement. The hall is now watertight and dry. The replacement windows help to make the hall lighter and warmer and the new kitchen and improved facilities have helped to increase usage of the hall by the local community as it is a much more welcoming and comfortable facility.

**"It has given us a hall fit  
for the future."**

*David Lorimer, Vice-Chair,  
Carronbridge Community  
Council*



# SPOTLIGHT ON - CLOSEBURN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £531,130**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £99,000**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Through consultation with the Closeburn community, Nith Valley Leaf Trust (NVLT) identified several local housing challenges. In particular a lack of affordable, family-sized, rental properties with secure tenancies; and also a lack of energy efficient housing, as many available rental properties are poorly maintained and/or built to outdated standards.

In 2013 NVLT received a grant of £35,000 towards the purchase of a new-build three bedroomed house in Closeburn. The house is let to a local family at an affordable rent. In 2018, the Trust was awarded £52,500 to contribute towards the purchase of a plot of vacant land and to build three homes to rent at an affordable level for local families. A further £11,500 was awarded in 2019 towards the costs of a development officer to support the project.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Working in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust, Closeburn Community Council and the design team at John Gilbert Architects, NVLT built the three family-sized passivhaus certified homes, a type of ultra-low energy building that requires little energy for space heating or cooling, enabling low heating bills, higher air quality and healthier homes.

The houses are now complete and let to local families. These are the first such community-owned homes in Scotland.

The community ownership model allows NVLT to reinvest rent revenue into community projects and contributes to long term housing solutions in the area.





# SPOTLIGHT ON - DURISDEER VILLAGE HALL RENOVATIONS

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £124,263**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £112,502**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Durisdeer Hall is the main community facility in the parish. The Clyde (D&G) Community Fund has supported projects to refurbish and improve the hall, including building a new toilet block, creating disabled toilets, providing storage, refurbishing the kitchen, creating a tarmacked carpark, replacing windows, redecorating the exterior and interior of the hall, purchasing new tables and chairs, and purchasing new equipment such as a PA system, screen, projector and noticeboard.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The project benefits all Durisdeer Hall users. The improved toilet and catering facilities make the hall a more attractive and accessible venue. The refurbished floor is much easier to keep clean, the hall exterior is welcoming to visitors and the painting will better protect the render on the walls. The car park is now well lit and safer especially in the winter months. The hall is now comfortable with improved facilities, making it more likely to be used by the community, which generates income and helps it to remain sustainable.

**" These improvements would not be possible without the grant. "**

***Jane Paton, representing the Village Hall Committee***



# SPOTLIGHT ON - JOHNSTONEBRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £1,241,374**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £54,274**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Johnstonebridge Centre and Community Development Trust (JCCDT) was awarded a grant of £20,000 towards the cost of replacing the old village hall with a new purpose-designed community centre. The old hall was not in public nor community ownership, needed repairs, was not situated in the village and the local authority had informed the community in 2014 that it would be closed. The award from the Clyde (D&G) Community Fund contributed towards £120,000 which was needed to match a grant of £1,052,000 from the Big Lottery to enable the project to go ahead.

In 2019, an award of £34,274 was given by the Fund towards the cost of constructing a much needed additional visitor car park at the centre.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The new community centre was completed on time and to budget. A wide range of events and activities now take place within it including carpet bowling, a lunch club, community post office, youth clubs, bingo, a church services, Women's Rural, dance classes, parent and toddler groups, dog and puppy training etc.

The centre benefits all residents of Johnstonebridge and its surrounding areas.



# SPOTLIGHT ON - KIRKCONNEL AND KELLOHOLM DEVELOPMENT TRUST

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £117,777**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £49,030**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

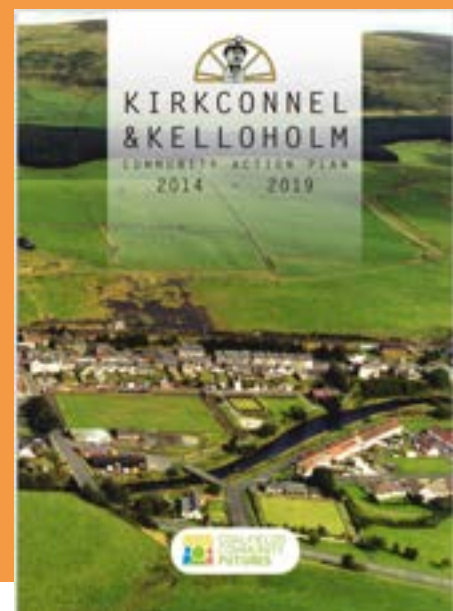
Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust (KKDT) received five awards from the fund between 2012 and 2022. These included grants totalling £41,030 towards salary costs of a development worker to progress the Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Action Plan; a ground maintenance worker; a Food Share co-ordinator and a community volunteer organiser. A grant of £8,000 was also awarded in 2016 to contribute towards a storage facility for community equipment.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The grants have enabled KKDT to recruit staff and volunteers to take forward projects highlighted in the Community Action Plan, in particular the maintenance and development of important community assets; to provide additional capacity to bid for and secure support from other funding streams to take forward key capital projects such as the restoration of the play park, housing for the elderly project and the development of a business and enterprise centre.

The grants have enabled the Trust to develop and take forward partnership arrangements and build good relationships with other organisations, such as Dumfries and Galloway Council; ensure that the Trust is involved and represented at local, regional and national level, as appropriate, able to keep abreast of local, regional and national developments, and to apply and secure funding for projects.

A number of community groups have also benefitted from a level of support that they have not previously had. This has helped build the confidence of individuals, helped groups achieve funding for projects and generally strengthened a number of the local community groups.



# SPOTLIGHT ON - NETHERMILL PLAY PARK DEVELOPMENT

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £63,587**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £42,384**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

An application was received on behalf of three organisations working in partnership, Kirkmichael Hall Community Group (KHCG), Kirkmichael Community Council (KCC) and Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) to upgrade and extend the play park in Nethermill which had been highlighted as a priority by the majority of residents consulted as part of the development of Kirkmichael's Community Action Plan due to it having dilapidated equipment and being unsafe.

The proposed project would provide the 250 households of Kirkmichael parish and its visitors with an up-to-date and high quality children's play park; a new playground area for use as a football pitch, rounders pitch and athletics ground; an outdoor learning space and wildlife area; and an area where local clubs and societies can gather and socialise.

A grant of £42,384 was awarded by the fund in March 2021 as a contribution towards the project with the rest of the funding package coming from local fundraising, Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company, and Kirkmichael Community Council.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The new park is an exciting place to play and meet and there have been very positive reports of groups of children of all ages playing together and supporting each other. Parents, carers and grandparents have found the park a fun and inspiring place to spend some time and the new seat is much appreciated.

Local farmers are interested in helping to landscape the community 'field' area by building banking, a dry stone wall, and draining a corner. Locals have volunteered help with creating paths, seating, tree planting, bench creation, grass mowing etc. KCC are considering up grading the park at Beech Avenue, Parkgate following on from this success.

# SPOTLIGHT ON - BEATTOCK VILLAGE HALL

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £96,090**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £92,811**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Beattock Village Hall, originally built in 1891, is held in trust by the four principle office bearers of the Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council, and managed by the Beattock Hall Committee for the benefit of the local community. The hall is well used by local groups, including a weekly lunch club, SWRI, Scottish country dancing, yoga, keep fit and bingo; as well as community events and for community council meetings.

The hall has received a number of awards from the fund since 2012, including a grant for £63,000 to build an extension to the hall to provide fit for purpose toilet facilities and disabled toilets; a grant of £9,016 to replace the old kitchen; and also grants to improve the energy efficiency and reduce heating costs including the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roof and install a new ground source heat pump.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The grants have benefited all in the community by providing modern accessible and welcoming facilities. The hall committee reported that bookings increased because of the improvements and that feedback from residents has been very positive.

The solar panels and new heat pump provide the hall with a 24 hour 7 days a week constant comfortable temperature of 19 degrees C and can be controlled remotely.



# SPOTLIGHT ON - MOFFAT AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY NATURE RESERVE

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £71,054**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £19,554**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Moffat Community Nature Reserve was created in 2009 to manage the 35 acre site of a disused sand and gravel quarry south of Moffat. The site was transferred to the community from the previous landowner for minimal cost on condition that it was managed as a nature reserve for the local community.

The Nature Reserve received support from the fund in 2016 to employ a project development officer and to improve and maintain the reserve, and the project included the installation of bird hides, wet weather shelters, and picnic tables; repair of footpaths, tree planting, and to deliver events and community outreach activities. The role was extended in 2019 with a grant for £10,554.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The project was a finalist at the Dumfries & Galloway Life Awards 2017. The warden continues to provide a programme of events at the nature reserve that are well attended by the local community. A total of 8,073 people engaged with the nature reserve in 2018, including groups such as the scouts, brownies, young rangers and local primary school as well as local people and visitors from further afield.



# SPOTLIGHT ON - UPPER NITHSDALE ARTS AND CRAFTS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (UNACCI)

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £256,012**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £25,520**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Upper Nithsdale Arts and Crafts Community Initiative (UNACCI), otherwise known as 'A' The Airts', is a community arts and crafts centre opened in 2010 in Sanquhar. Over 150 local crafters, artists, writers and musicians sell products via its shop and gallery. The facility also includes a multi-purpose space that is used for children's and adults' workshops and classes. The knitting group, Sanquhar Pattern Designs is also supported by UNACCI. Tourists and locals both benefit from the centre's coffee shop with free Wi-Fi, and the theatre showing regular films and offering musical performances.

UNACCI has received awards from the fund towards salary costs and website development; to assist in developing a programme of workshops and classes for adults and children; and to fund its Marriage of Figaro production with the Blackbird Opera company.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Over 300 people benefited from the opera project with 110 community members attending the opera performance in Sanquhar Town Hall; 150 Primary School pupils taking part in practical workshops and observing rehearsals.

The grants have also enabled UNACCI to offer placements to young people from Sanquhar Academy, run projects with local primary schools and develop its youth theatre and other events and activities.



# SPOTLIGHT ON - THORNHILL GALA COMMITTEE

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £45,013**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £12,100**

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

Thornhill Gala Committee was established in 2011 for the sole purpose of organising, funding and overseeing an annual week of Gala celebrations, which are provided free of charge for the benefit of the whole community of Thornhill.

In order to fund the week long celebrations the committee arrange community fundraisers throughout the year and in particular during the Thornhill Gala week.

The group has been awarded six grants to date by the fund as contributions towards the running costs of the gala including the hire of children's rides and inflatables, and to purchase a storage container for equipment.

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

The provision of rides and inflatables plays a very large part in the whole experience of Gala day, especially the larger rides for older children and young adults, as it is difficult to provide any other suitable entertainment for those in the 10 - 17 age group. It is estimated that at least 300 people each year benefitted. The container will provide the group with centrally situated weather-proof storage for years to come which will make arrangements on the day easier for the volunteer organisers of the event.

*"Applying for the grant and receiving the award has been an easy and user-friendly process."  
Committee member*





# SPOTLIGHT ON - WAMPHRAY VILLAGE HALL

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £145,029**  
**TOTAL AWARDED: £103,701**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Wamphray Village Hall is the only focal point for the local community since the closure of the school and village shop and is therefore a much valued facility. The main hall is an attractive stone building dating from 1849 which is in reasonable condition & listed grade B. Its timber extension provided a small meeting room, kitchen & store, but it was poorly built with little or no thermal insulation and needed to be replaced. In addition the car park surface was uneven, full of potholes and generally felt to be unsafe for users and not fit for purpose.

The village hall has received four grants from the fund to contribute towards running costs; pay for architect fees and planning costs for renovating the hall; to replace the kitchen and meeting room areas; and to level and improve the car park.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

It is used by a wide range of residents and community groups, including for Community Council meetings, bowls club, SWRI, walking and knitting groups, church groups, polling station, as well as individual hires i.e. birthdays, weddings, christening and funeral teas. Usage is particularly high during the winter months. Since the renovations the hall has seen increased usage and feedback from users has been very encouraging.



# SPOTLIGHT ON - WANLOCKHEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: £69,797**

**TOTAL AWARDED: £44,425**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Wanlockhead Community Centre is a converted schoolhouse located in the heart of the village of Wanlockhead. The centre is well used by residents of Wanlockhead and of neighbouring Leadhills.

The Centre currently provides a meeting place and a social hub, including for the play group, exercise classes and lunch club, the heritage group, festive parties, and a place to vote. In addition, the Centre is an outdoor centre providing basic accommodation to over 1,000 visitors a year.

The centre has received seven grants from the Clyde (D&G) Community Fund to upgrade its facilities, purchase equipment, provide activities and events, undertake a feasibility study and contribute towards running and maintenance costs.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

The grants have enabled the centre to upgrade its facilities and through this generate additional income from users which supports its long term sustainability. The awards have benefit all users of the centre.

