

Community Funding Bulletin 2024



Halkirk District Wind Farm Community Funds

In partnership with the Halkirk District Community Council, Foundation Scotland administers three of the local community benefit funds from local wind farms, for the residents of Halkirk District. These wind farms are Achlachan, Bad á Cheò and Halsary.

Foundation Scotland is an independent charity with expertise in grant making and provides governance and administrative support to the Funds under contract to the wind farm owners. The Foundation's costs for this service are paid from the Fund.

Decisions on awards are made by a local Funding Panel, comprising up to 14 volunteers from the community.

2023 Fund activity

During 2023 the three Funds have...



Awarded 42 grants ranging from £500 to £30,000 totalling £167,181...



including 23 awards to community groups totalling £134,858



.. and 19 awards to people learning to drive totalling £9,500...



... and 15 awards to people doing other training courses totalling £22,823.

How to apply

Guidance and forms



For guidance and to apply online go to: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk> or use the short link: bit.ly/ABHfunds or scan this QR code with your smart phone:



Application Deadlines:

- ❖ 15th March
- ❖ 15th July
- ❖ 15th September
- ❖ 15th December



(decisions take 6-8 weeks)

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Awards Made in 2023

The Panel makes awards from three Funds, collectively these are known as the **ABH Funds**. During 2023, 23 awards were made, these were allocated in a reasonably balanced way to each of the three Funds with 6 awards made by the **Achlachan** Wind Farm Community Fund, 6 by the **Bad a Cheo** Wind Farm Fund and 7 by the **Halsary** Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. There were also three larger awards, and these awards were split between the three Funds.

Awards from the Achlachan Wind Farm Community Fund

1. £1,500 Spittal Village Hall **Coronation of King Charles III celebration**
2. £3,000 Scotscladder Hall **Annual running costs of the Hall**
3. £4,758 Spittal Village Hall **Enhancing facilities at the Hall**
4. £2,500 Caithness Agricultural Society **Running the 2023 Caithness County Show**
5. £7,324 Spittal Village Hall **New equipment, including a bingo machine**
6. £7,116 Girlguiding Thurso **External doors for Thurso Girl Guide Hall**



Awards from the Bad a Cheo Wind Farm Fund



7. £500 Caithness Voluntary Group **Development Officer budget: events and consultation**
8. £3,525 Venture North **Taste North 2023**
9. £5,877 Lyth Arts Centre **Rural programme of events**
10. £9,000 Halkirk Village Council **Christmas lights for Sinclair Street**
11. £3,000 1st Thurso Boys' Brigade **'Big Camp USA' trip in 2024**

Awards from the Halsary Windfarm Community Benefit Fund (Halkirk & District)

- 12. £5,000 Sidh Chailleann Art "Legends of Caithness" Artist exhibition
- 13. £10,000 Home-Start Caithness Staff costs: Family Support worker
- 14. £1,000 Thurso High School PTA S6 University trip 2023
- 15. £1,000 Thurso High School PTA Educational trip to Iceland in October 2023
- 16. £2,000 Craft from the Croft Caithness Sewing and alterations classes
- 17. £4,000 Science 03 Caithness International Science Festival 2022

- 18. £1,000 Thurso High School PTA Educational trip to Berlin in 2024
- 19. £1,000 Thurso High School PTA S1-S3 skiing trip to the French Alps in 2024
- 20. £9,657 Scots Calder Hall Health and safety equipment and storage

Awards where the grant total was split between all three funds: The ABH Funds:

- 21. £13,083 Northern Pilgrims' Way Group The Skinnet Stone project
- 22. £30,000 Halkirk Village Council Church Street Playpark
- 23. £9,018 Caithness Voluntary Group Staff costs: Rural Development Officer.



Bad á Cheò Education and Training Awards

The purpose of the bursaries is to improve people's opportunities for employment. Anyone aged over 16 who lives within the Halkirk District area can apply for short courses or multi-year courses which they can see potential for employment in.

Costs might include course fees, course books, study aids, equipment. Please note travel, subsistence and accommodation costs will only be considered for people aged 16-25, and in the first instance students should check whether they are eligible for free bus travel.

34 Halkirk District residents received an award:

- **£9,500** to 19 local people to fund driving lessons and test fees
- **£3,000** MSci Neuroscience and Psychology
- **£1,500** C+E heavy goods licence
- **£235** Sea Kayak Leader course
- **£1,500** Offshore Survival training
- **£2,500** BSc Physiology and Sports Science
- **£2,500** Biological Science
- **£286** Sea Kayak Safety & Rescue: Provider Orientation
- **£1,000** two Open University modules: Leadership in a changing world & Marketing in action
- **£1,500** HNC sports therapy
- **£700** Manual Therapy - Spinal & Peripheral Mobilisations training
- **£2,500** International Politics
- **£120** Type 1 Authorisation Certificate of Competence for the transportation of animals for crofting purposes
- **£732** Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Sheep Dips for crofters
- **£1,500** HNC Sports Development and Coaching
- **£3,250** Biomedical Science

Micro-grants

Individuals or non-constituted groups looking for a small grant of up to £300, can apply to apply for a micro-grant. For more information, please contact Halkirk & District community council:

secretary@halkirkcommunitycouncil.org

Want to be a part of it?



The Funding Panel is looking for new members. Contact Community Fund Adviser, Eilidh Coll:



eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk



07801 530 218