

Flash Report

July - September 2024



Foundation
Scotland

Welcome to our Flash Report, July to September 2024

Foundation Scotland has welcomed a new Chair following the departure of Barry Sillers after eight dedicated years serving first on the Board then as Chair. Mamta Patel has been a Trustee of Foundation Scotland for three years and has extensive professional and personal experience which she will bring to her new role.

Welcome aboard!

"I was honoured to be asked to take on the role of Chair of Foundation Scotland. Barry has done an immense amount of work in the role, working alongside trustees and staff to ensure that Foundation Scotland is always evolving and responding to community needs, and I know that he will be missed, both professionally and personally. The Chair role brings new responsibilities and I am conscious of the trust being placed in me to do the job well. In the three years I have been a Trustee, I have come to look forward to my interactions with Foundation Scotland's Board and staff because I know I will meet dynamic, committed people intent on doing their best for Scottish communities."



About Mamta

As a first-generation immigrant to the UK from Kenya, part of an Indian Gujarati family, her life choices have been driven by issues of poverty, race, class, culture, equity and inclusivity.

“My family’s journey has given me a global perspective, while our culture and all that I have learned through my work have imbued me with great respect for the natural environment for its spiritual importance, and as the ultimate provider of essential resources. A thread throughout my life experiences has been the vital importance of information, communication and connection in determining people’s fortunes. Consequently, my career has been in social and environmental journalism.”

Mamta wrote for 14 years for the respected UK environmental journal The ENDS Report, specialising in global issues and corporate social responsibility responses to environmental challenges. In 2007, she co-founded Chemical Watch, a global B2B digital publication that provided informed journalism to challenge and support businesses and regulators to improve product safety for human health and the environment. This grew from two staff to more than 75 by the time it was sold.

In 2021, she moved to the Northwest Highlands near Ullapool, a place her husband and his geologist father loved and visited for generations. They have now made it their home.

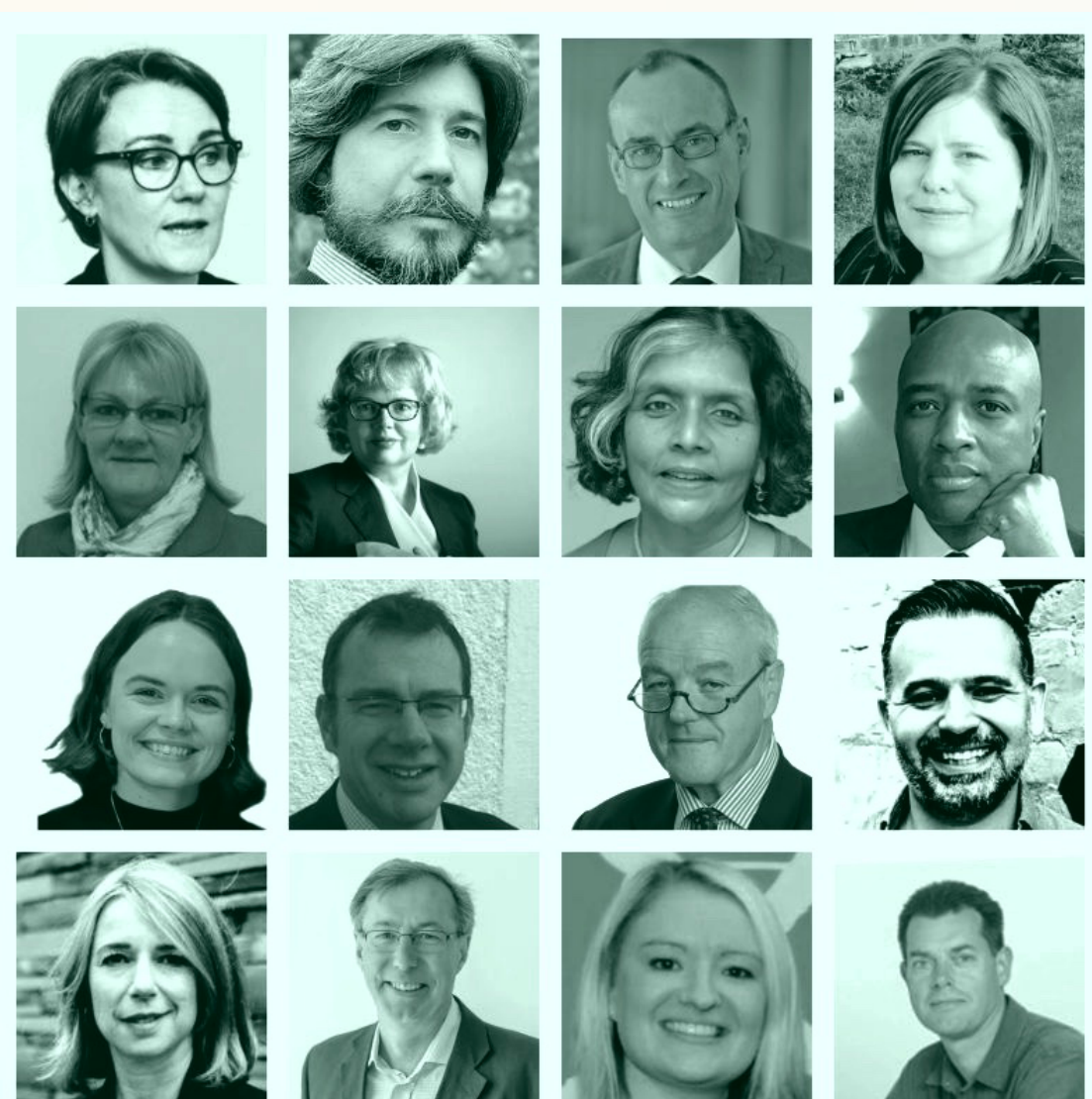
She became a Trustee of Foundation Scotland that year and also joined, and now chairs, the Lochbroom and Ullapool Community Trust.

Alongside, she works shifts at Ullapool Youth Space and provides mentoring and personal development coaching. She has started a social enterprise to run a community festival - Ulluminate - to showcase the skills and talent in the area and to provide work experience for young people.

She and her husband are providing support to local families and regenerating a small piece of heavily grazed land to achieve a mix of carbon capture and biodiversity optimisation.

Serving trustees Sharon Fairweather and Leslie Rance have become Board Vice-chairs, to support Mamta, alongside Toby Anstruther who has been vice-chair for five years.

We are also welcoming five fantastic new Trustees to our Board. Between them, they have an enormous amount of talent and experience and we're very much looking forward to their input and guidance. They are Deborah Paton, Susan Murray, Carlos Miranda, Mairi Mickel and Kim Atkinson.



Foundation Scotland Board



Philanthropy and Fund News

Foundation Scotland provides wrap-around services and support for corporate giving and for individual donors. We work alongside and support a diverse range of philanthropists – individuals, families, Charitable Trusts and Foundations as well as corporate donors, who all want to do their bit for communities.

The Foundation Scotland Philanthropy team provides support for our donors in multiple ways. Some of the funds we support are called Donor Advised Funds.

As the name suggests, this means that donations are placed in a fund specifically designated by donors themselves – for instance, to support a geographical area or social issue that they have a particular connection with.

Other donors prefer to ask for our advice and guidance around how their charitable giving should be channelled, and some simply need help with our governance and disbursement expertise.

Whichever route our donors choose, we help them to forge meaningful relationships with communities and causes, and find the right fit for their philanthropic aspirations.



Spotlight On.... Scottish Building Society Foundation: building better communities



The Scottish Building Society is based in Edinburgh, is the oldest building society in the world and the only independent building society in Scotland.

In August 2023, as part of its 175th anniversary, Scottish Building Society (SBS) launched a pioneering pilot initiative to provide crucial financial support to community organisations throughout Scotland. The initiative, known as the Scottish Building Society Foundation Awards Programme, offered a unique opportunity for community organisations to secure 12-month grants of up to £5,000.

Fast forward to today, and the Foundation has just delivered its fourth round of funding, with decisions now being made on applications.

Delivered in partnership with Foundation Scotland, the Scottish Building Society Foundation benefits an array of Scottish organisations, making a positive lasting impact in the communities in which it serves.

In the first three rounds of funding, they awarded a total of 28 grants worth a whopping £97,089 to charities, enabling them to make real and meaningful impact on local communities across Scotland.

One of those awards was to Highlands-based Partnerships for Wellbeing, who will use the funding to give vulnerable adults regular opportunities to socialise and combat loneliness.



Jeff Zycinski, Manager of the charity, explained why the funding was so critical.

"It may seem simple, but our Friendship Club meetings and outings mean so much to those who take part. It's about getting out of the house, building a network of pals, having a laugh, maybe sharing a worry, and having new things to tell your family when you get home. It's about living a long life well. The grant from The Scottish Building Society will help us do all of that."

One of the first awards made by the Scottish Building Society Foundation was in the north of Scotland, to an organisation that Foundation Scotland had been supporting for some years - youth charity Caithness KLICS. They were awarded a grant to keep their young carers service operating. Grant funds supported the ongoing costs of the club's minibus, essential for helping young carers in Caithness access activities that offer respite from their caring responsibilities.

In this remote corner of Scotland, access to transport for young people with caring responsibilities is a recurring obstacle, so the bus is crucial in enabling them to travel safely and participate in trips and outings. This grant ensured that young carers, including those in the most rural areas, could continue to access the support they need.

The current funding round is closed, but the next round will be opening soon.



Social Investment – a unique programme of support

Social investment is a different type of funding, designed to support social enterprises, community organisations and charities, to enable them to grow and also to deliver positive social impact that addresses local issues and needs.

Foundation Scotland has a Social Investment team who provide support and expertise to those who are looking for a new way to start or grow their business. What makes our programme different to other social investment offerings is our blend of grant and loan, meaning that only a portion of our investment is repayable. Currently, we offer a 25% grant with a 75% loan.

Most importantly, the team also get to know the people behind the businesses that we invest in, creating relationships and partnerships that, in and of themselves, are an integral part of our Social Investment journey.

Spotlight on... Edinburgh Open Workshop

Edinburgh Open Workshop is a creative maker space offering affordable, flexible, Pay-As-You-Go membership access to workshop machinery, tools, fabrication space and structured creative learning programs and training. Their purpose is to bring affordable resources and learning to those who choose to engage with making and creativity.

They run tiered programs designed to suit the community, to house, teach and provide support. This is underpinned by an enterprise strand to finance the delivery of their social mission.

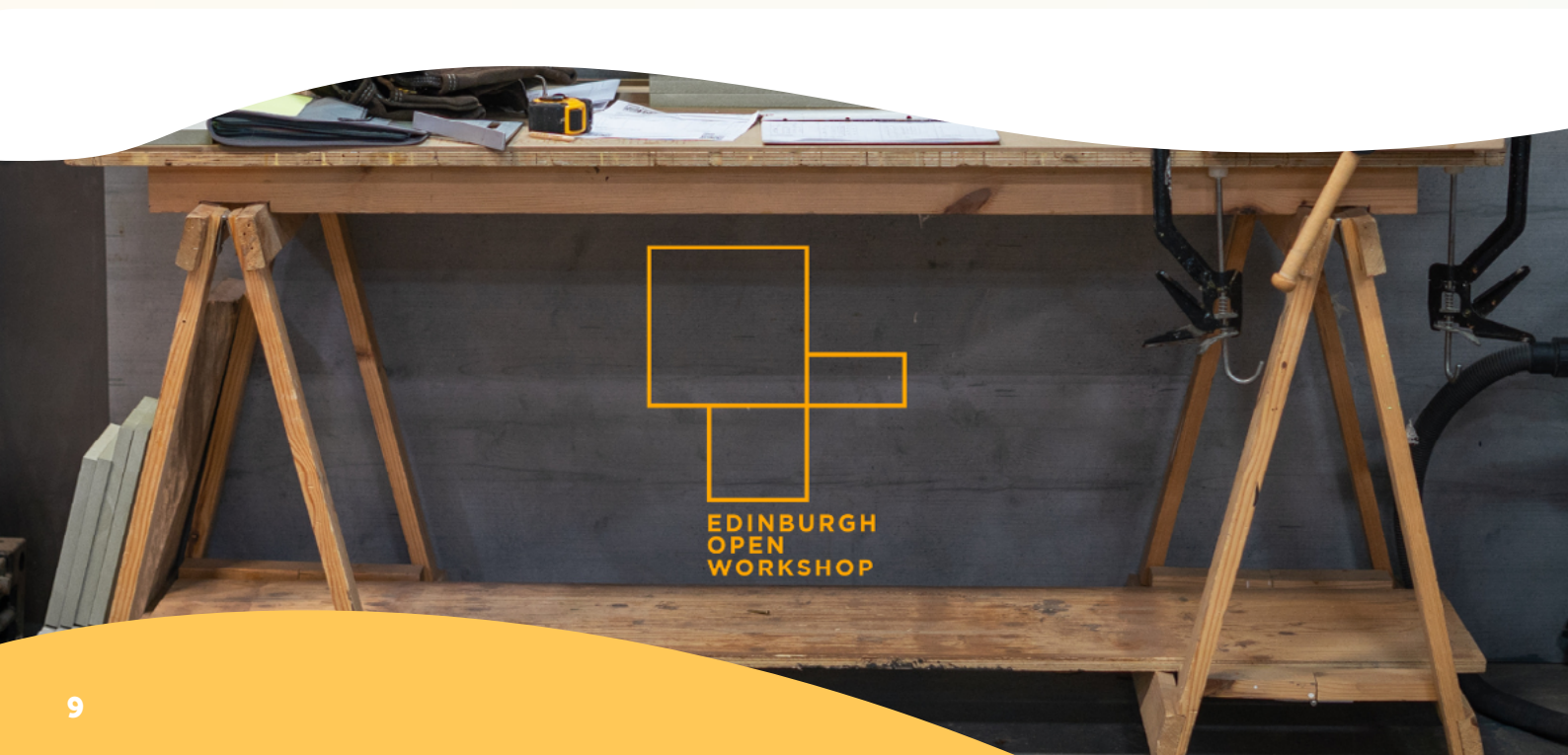
Background

Edinburgh Open Workshop began trading in July 2018 as a not-for-profit social enterprise, designed to support and advocate for the creative sector. All profit is reinvested and is used for equipment maintenance, the creation and improvement of workspaces, and the development of courses, workshops and training – both for their members, and for the public.

They are the only facility of this scale in Edinburgh, and form an integral part of the growing network of Scottish Makerspaces.

Development

By 2020, Edinburgh Open Workshop was still fully volunteer run, with only one contractor and almost entirely dependent on grant funding. In only three years since, they have become fully income supported, with a core staff of four and two regular freelancers. They have gone from a membership of 30 to 300. And they have also gone from providing little training beyond inductions to a fully-fledged tiered course program.



They have also seen course participants establish themselves as significant creative makers in Edinburgh. Edinburgh Open Workshop is more than a work space. People make connections, grow in confidence, share ideas and make things happen. They have also seen course participants establish themselves as significant creative makers in Edinburgh. It is more than a work space. People make connections, grow in confidence, share ideas and make things happen. At Edinburgh Open Workshop people work independently, but never alone.

Foundation Scotland support

Through consistent interaction and engagement with their creative community, Edinburgh Open Workshop continuously grows and adapts their workshop equipment, tools and space, their learning program and its structure, and their outreach to meet growing demand.

To help support this growth and expansion, in June of this year, they received £50,000 of social investment from Foundation Scotland to take on the neighbouring warehouse, increasing their Leith trading premises from 10,000 sq ft to 17,000 sq ft.

Foundation Scotland's investment will help meet the costs incurred in the prep work and fit-out of the next-door leasehold premises. This will deliver increased space for resident makers, more storage containers to allow larger projects to be kept on site while in progress, and a community event space and reception with new signage.

Niamh Hughes joined Edinburgh Open Workshop as part of the Kickstarter Apprenticeship scheme and went on to join the team as a Laser & Duty Technician. Niamh studied Applied Materials and is a Maker in her own right, designing laser cut jewellery. The facilities at Edinburgh Open Workshop and the array of skills in the Resident Member body meant that Niamh could expand her skillset and develop her creative practise, experimenting with new materials and techniques. **"If you want to learn woodwork or metalwork, if you want to know how to make things of any sort, or if you just need space to create, this is the best, most supportive place you could go to. There are so many people to help and inspire you, what you do is up to you and your imagination!"**

[Read their 2023 Annual Report here.](#)





Community-Led Funding

Community benefit funds come in different shapes and sizes, and can vary in how they are set up and operate, including how the geographical area of benefit is determined, who administers the annual payments, who makes decisions about fund strategies and how the money is spent. But what they all have in common is that communities themselves can decide how funds are used.

Foundation Scotland is the leading national administrator of community benefit funds in Scotland. Our team works alongside renewable energy businesses and communities to provide specialist support, such as fund design, grant-making, community engagement, facilitation and fund management services. We currently support more than 350 communities to distribute around £7million annually, from ninety-three different community benefit funds.

Community benefit funds from renewables are a unique source of support for communities because of their longevity linked to the operational life of the project. But they are also unique because they can mandate communities to be the decision makers, and this is a feature that Foundation Scotland works to preserve and develop.



Spotlight on... The Westfield Trilogy: A decade of support

The Westfield Wind Farm in Fife, which is a subsidiary of renewables energy business Nadara, supports the neighbouring communities of Benarty, Cardenden and Kinglassie. The fund was divided into three sub-funds to reflect the differing needs of each community, and involve more local people in decision making.

Each fund is supported by Foundation Scotland and each has been instrumental in providing opportunities for communities to thrive by supporting local individuals, groups and organisations. The funds provide grants to charitable activities that enhance the quality of life for local residents, that contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities and that promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

The Westfield Wind Farm fund is now marking its tenth year of operation. Over the last decade, it has provided in excess of £240,000 across all three communities and along the way it has also offered Education and Training funds, microgrants and support for individuals during the 2020 floods.

Awards from all three are decided by a decision making panel, made up of local residents from each Community Council area.

The panel members use their local knowledge and passion to ensure that awards are making a direct impact in the community, based on community need.

Earlier this year the Benarty Community Panel and Foundation Scotland joined forces with Fife Council's Community Learning & Development Team to organise a participatory grant making event which they called 'Benarty Decides'. Members of the community came along to hear about all of the prospective projects, and funding was then awarded based on the results of their votes and recommendations by the panel.

As the Cardenden, Benarty and Kinglassie funds celebrate their tenth year, the variety of projects that have flourished thanks to their support is significant. Community benefit funds such as these continue to demonstrate the power of local residents and the difference a community can make when it focuses on long term impact.

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024



VALUE OF NEW DONATIONS:
£4,857,845



TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS PAID:
1016



TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS PAID:
£8,033,154



TOTAL VALUE OF LOANS PAID:
£218,750




TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW FUNDS:
6


Contact us

▲ Tel: 0131 524 0300

▲ Email: enquiries@foundationscotland.org.uk

 @foundationscot

 @foundationscotland

 @foundation-scotland



Foundation Scotland

Scotland's Community Foundation