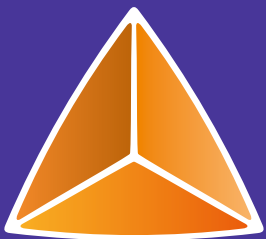


# Flash Report

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October - December 2024



Foundation  
Scotland



# Welcome to our last Flash Report of 2024

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Welcome to our last Flash Report of 2024, a year that has been full of activity, milestones and learning, but most of all full of celebration - of communities coming together to make life better for all, creating opportunities, connections and legacies.

In this last quarter, the team at Foundation Scotland has been busier than ever, growing our own capacity to better serve those communities we walk beside, and support the donors who make our work possible.

Among our activities were events large and small, with one of the most convivial taking place down a hidden cobbled street in the West end of Edinburgh...



## Sir Tom Hunter: Lessons and Learning in Philanthropy

On the evening of November 18th, we hosted our third Mistakes in Philanthropy event, featuring Scottish philanthropist and powerhouse Sir Tom Hunter as our keynote speaker.

The venue, kindly donated for the evening by Professor Russell Napier, was the Library of Mistakes, described as being dedicated to 'the study of financial history, so that both professionals and the investing public can avoid the mistakes of the past.'

Sir Tom came along to discuss the successes, challenges, and lessons learned in his long and fascinating career.

A renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sir Tom has committed over £150 million through The Hunter Foundation since his first business exit in 1998.

His foundation focuses on supporting visionary leaders and fostering disruptive innovation in philanthropy.

The evening explored Sir Tom's unique approach to blending entrepreneurial thinking with philanthropy. Guests gained valuable perspectives on impactful partnerships, strategies for challenging the status quo, and fostering a new generation of leaders (his advice for other philanthropists was: 'Give your kids enough to do something, but not so much they do nothing!').



The format of the evening saw Sir Tom in conversation with host Mairi Mickel, with guests being actively encouraged by Sir Tom to interrupt him at any time with questions, allowing them to delve deeper into his experiences, knowledge, motivations and yes, mistakes, which have all shaped his philanthropic vision.

The event also encouraged intergenerational participation, inviting attendees to bring younger family members or friends to engage in the discussion.

The evening proved to be an inspiring and enriching experience, underscoring the power of collaboration and reflection in driving meaningful change.

His final words of advice?

‘Pull entrepreneurs together, bring people together - it’s that shared experience, journey, knowledge and support - that’s real secret sauce stuff.’







# Community-led Funding

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The Foundation Scotland communities team works across the length and breadth of the country, providing specialist support and fund management for community benefit funds that are linked to renewable energy sources, such as wind farms. We work alongside communities to help them navigate and maximise these funds, so that they can make significant and long-lasting investments in the places they live.

We currently support over 350 communities to distribute more than £10 million annually, from almost a hundred different community benefit funds. Each community is different, in terms of fund strategy and how the money is spent. What they all have in common is that **they themselves** can decide how funds are used.

## 10 is the magic number...

In the past few months, four community benefit funds provided by renewable energy company Nadara, have celebrated significant milestones, marking ten years of support to local communities across the country.



The Glenkerie Windfarm Community Fund that supports communities in the Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire opened in 2014, and was established to enhance the local environment, ensuring that it is an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and visit. Since then, it has supported community-led projects which encourage and promote community spirit, ensure adequate access to services for community members, improve local transport, grow the local economy and develop and maintain community assets.

Over the last decade, the fund has provided over £818,000 to 62 groups and charities located within the Fund area.

In Fife, **the Westfield Wind Farm Fund** 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 has been instrumental in providing opportunities for communities to thrive by supporting local individuals, groups and organisations.

**In Benarty**, the fund has awarded £126,101 in the last ten years through 77 grants to 31 groups and organisations.

Normally, awards from the fund are decided by a voluntary panel, which is made up of residents from the Benarty Fund area. This year, however, the fund decided to involve more people in the decision making and ran a participatory grantmaking event in partnership with Fife Council's Community Learning and Development Team. This provided an opportunity to combine local authority funding with the Westfield windfarm community benefit income, giving the whole community ownership over their funds.



**In Kinglassie**, the fund has awarded 66 grants totalling over £161,000 in the last decade. Kinglassie also has access to an Education and Training Fund, which opened just last year, supporting individuals to access learning and training opportunities that may otherwise be unattainable due to financial constraints. Through the Fund, the Kinglassie Community Council also offers a microgrant scheme which provides opportunities for unconstituted groups and individuals to apply for smaller amounts of funding.

**And in Cardenden**, the Fund has awarded 134 grants to 39 groups and organisations, totalling £115,994 over ten years. An award made earlier this year illustrates the impact funding can have for local groups, with a grant to the Romi Clarke Dance group to enable young people from Cardenden to represent Scotland and attend the Dance World Cup competition in Prague.

This was the first time the dance school had auditioned for the National team, and nine girls aged between nine and twelve were selected to join Team Scotland. Many of them described it as 'the opportunity of a lifetime.'

Over the last decade, the Westfield Wind Farm Fund has provided a combined total of **£403,095 across all three communities.**

These funds continue to demonstrate the power of renewable energy-driven community benefit funds derived from Scotland's renewables projects that are both generating clean energy and supporting communities to improve infrastructure, foster inclusivity, and enhance the lives of local residents.








# Philanthropy and Fund News

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## **Charity Detectives strike again...**

There are around 24,000 registered charities in Scotland, from small local charities to large international organisations. Many of these charities have been set up as Trusts to distribute grants or give donations where they are needed - to other charities, voluntary groups or individuals as laid out in their original constitution. For generations, families, individuals and businesses the length and breadth of the country have set up Charitable Trusts for the benefit of others.

However, sometimes these trusts can become 'dormant', meaning that they are no longer distributing funds. This can happen for a number of reasons - it can be difficult to recruit new trustees, find time to run the charity or as times change, it can be impossible to identify beneficiaries that match the original deeds of the trust.



Foundation Scotland's **'Revitalising Trusts'** project, which is being run in collaboration with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), has unearthed over 300 inactive charitable trusts of varying sizes and purposes, with forgotten funds often lying dormant in accounts for several decades and in some cases well over a century. The project, which launched in 2021, was set up to identify these inactive trusts and support them to reactivate. Since then, over £5 million of dormant funds has been released for public benefit.

A key part of this process involves the Foundation Scotland philanthropy team. Their role is to carefully assess the criteria and purposes of dormant trusts, using their knowledge of Scotland's charitable sector to match these funds with groups or organisations where they can have the most impact.

This matching process is guided by an understanding of both the trusts' original intent and the needs of contemporary charities.

Most recently, this led to a release of funds in the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire area, following the winding-up of six dormant trusts, one of which had been set up more than 100 years ago. Working alongside the philanthropy team and local legal firms, the Revitalising Trusts project successfully reorganised all six funds into a small endowment to help deliver the greatest impact. Thanks to the project, these forgotten funds are now helping to tackle poverty and inequality in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, as was originally intended.







The Revitalising Trusts crack team recently visited Aberdeen, to meet one of the projects benefiting from their work, which the philanthropy team had identified as a suitable recipient - AberNecessities.

Launched in 2019, AberNecessities provides disadvantaged families with support, based on their belief that **'No Child Should Go Without'**. From maternity bundles to nappies, formula milk, clothing, toys and equipment for children aged 0-18 years, AberNecessities recognises the importance of meeting the basic needs of a child to give them the best start possible.

Nearly a quarter of children living in Aberdeen are living in poverty and over the last five years, AberNecessities has supported more than 18,000 children, distributing hundreds of thousands of items to families and children across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

AberNecessities will receive over £38,000 over the next three years as part of the unlocked funds.

**Danielle Flecher-Horn**, a mother and former teacher, was inspired to start AberNecessities after witnessing the detrimental impact of going without essentials on school children's learning and development.

Danielle said "We are all immensely grateful for the support from Foundation Scotland's Revitalising Trusts Project, which will go towards the staff costs of our 'Hero' campaign. This vital initiative is dedicated to supporting families fleeing situations of domestic abuse, helping them re-settle and minimise trauma during an incredibly challenging time. As a charity deeply rooted in the Aberdeen community, we have become a crucial lifeline for local families experiencing poverty. Securing multi-year funding through a time of such high need is a huge relief and will enable our small charity to continue to reach those most impacted by poverty and through the current economic crisis. We hope the original founders of these trusts would be proud of the support their legacy is delivering to some of the most vulnerable families living in our communities today."



# Social Investment

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Social investment is 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. Our programme is different to other social investment offerings, with a **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 are an integral part of our Social Investment journey.

Recently, the team worked with a sports community in Dundee which had already been delivering impressive social impact.



## Dundee North West Community Sports Club

Dundee North West Community Sports Club (DNWCSC), was formed in 2010 to promote local participation in sport, primarily football, basketball and rugby. It's a small volunteer-led programme with big aspirations.

Dundee North West Community Sports Club manages sports facilities at two locations, one of which is the Charlotte Street grass pitches and club pavilion. The pitches are available to rent by the public and external youth teams when not used by the core clubs. They are an SFA accredited Platinum Legacy Club, which is the highest award made to clubs recognised for their work in social development, charitable activities, community support and environmental commitments.

They deliver a wide and varied community focused programme, with participant ages ranging from 3 years of age to 90.

The kids football section of the Trust consists of 800 playing members, with a large percentage of participants living within the poorest areas of Dundee.

Through their programme of work, they reach up to 400 young people using teamwork, problem solving, and communication activities delivered at local nurseries, primary and secondary schools. They also deliver a summer holiday food programme and this year, for the first time, offered a daily camp over the school holiday to allow parents the opportunity to work.



Their activities also aim to tackle social isolation and mental health issues by engaging with up to 300 members of the local community via sports related projects including men's active groups, walking groups and healthier lifestyle initiatives.

There are 8 other astroturf facilities in the city, servicing in excess of 200 youth and amateur football clubs as well as an active Junior FA league. DNWCSC was the last remaining sports hub of their size in Dundee to not have a 4G pitch, which meant their timetable for the grass pitches was at the mercy of poor weather and shorter hours during the winter.

After approaching Foundation Scotland for a final funding push, they received £75,000 of social investment support which allowed them to close the final funding gap and put in place installations such as floodlights and fencing to make the pitch fully functioning and useable. The total cost of the facility, which has been a decade in the making, was £935,000 and Dundee North West pitch was opened to the public in October.

Tam McCabe, manager at the Dundee West Community Trust, said:

**"This facility allows us to support those most in need by having something local. They can have access to things like drop-in sessions where young people, regardless if they play for a team or how good they are, can come along for a kick about. Youth diversity projects are also supported, which will allow people to be off the streets in the local area and be in a safe space where they are improving their wellbeing. The idea is that it will become the heart of the community and schools and other organisations can benefit - that's the vision."**



## October - December 2024



**Value of new donations:  
£3,185,198**



**Total number of grants paid:  
1448**



**Total value of grants paid:  
£11,218,742**




**Total number of new funds:  
11**


## Contact us

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