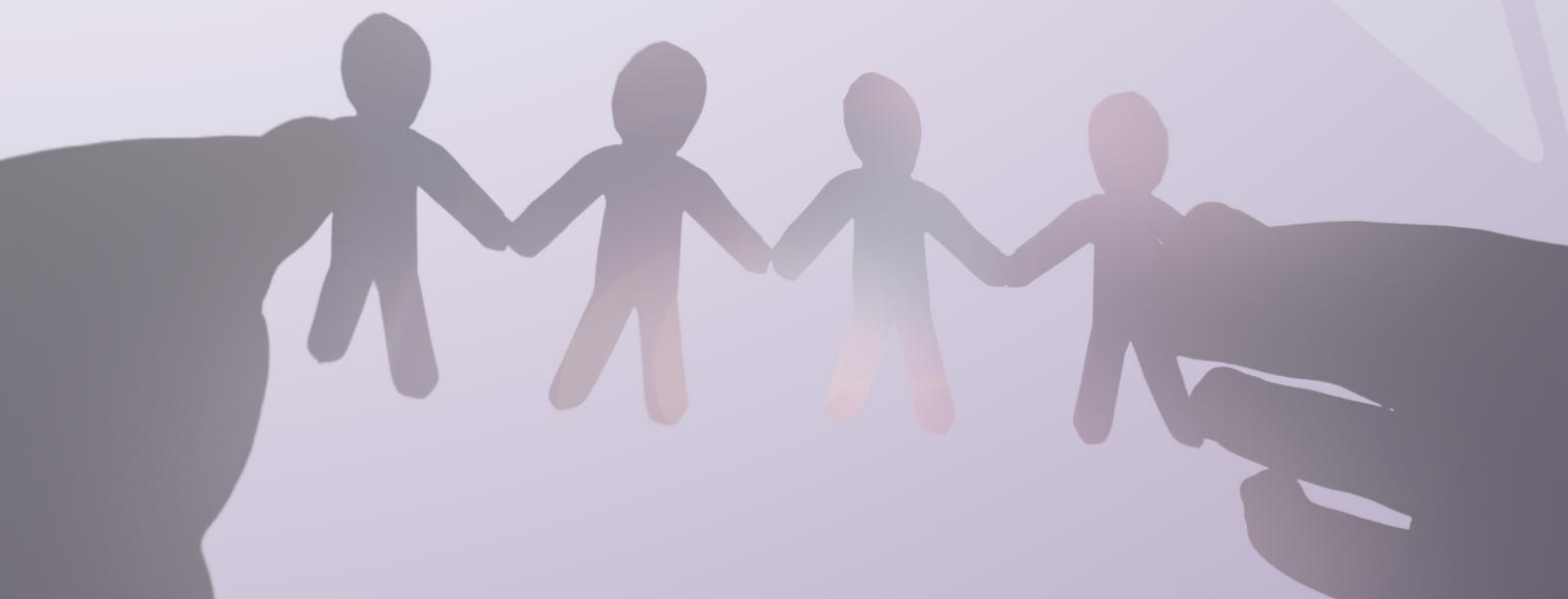


**nadara**



**Foundation  
Scotland**

# **Nadara Gordonstown Wind Farm Community Fund Fund Report 2022-2024**





# Awards at a glance.....



9  
**MAIN FUND AWARDS**



11  
**EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
AWARDS (AIF ONLY)**



**TOTAL FUNDS  
REQUESTED**  
**£32,693.65**



**TOTAL AWARDED - FYVIE  
ROTHIENORMAN**  
**£26,563.65**



**TOTAL AIF E&T FUND  
AWARDED**  
**£9,533.54**

## Executive Summary

Gordonstown Community Fund is provided by Nadara, the owner of the Gordonstown Hill Wind Farm in Aberdeenshire. The Fund benefits people living in the area served by Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Council, plus Fyvie and Rothienorman. The fund operates as two separate funds with 64% of the annual donation for Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford (AIF) and 34% for Fyvie and Rothienorman (FRN).

There are no application deadlines for the AIF funding and groups can apply any time. The FRN fund has two funding rounds each year with deadlines for applications at the end of March and in early October. Grant applications are considered at Community Panel award meetings around seven to eight weeks after each application has been received or an application deadline has passed.

### Microgrants

Individuals or smaller groups can apply to the microgrants scheme, operated by the community Councils for up to £500 towards a community project. Applications for micro grants are via email to the Chair or Secretary of the Community Council, with details displayed on posters in key locations and promoted on community websites and social media accounts.

### AIF Education & Training Fund

This fund provides educational and training bursaries for residents within the Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford Community Council areas seeking to improve their employability prospects or develop a new career. Awards can support participation in a range of courses, from short courses to postgraduate degrees and residents aged 16 and upwards can apply for up to £1,500., towards a range of costs including for example course fees, specialised equipment and tools, travel and childcare costs. Multi year awards for up to three years are also available from the fund.

## **FRN Main Fund**

Since the last report covering the period 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the FRN fund has distributed 60% of donated funds with a further round of applications going to decision on October which will push this figure up for the current fund year. As a relatively small portion of the fund at 34% of the annual donation the FRN fund is spending reasonably well with a good distribution of grants across local groups and assets. The Community Panel is functioning well and meetings are always well attended.

## **AIF Subfund Underspend**

Since the last report Foundation Scotland has worked with a reformed Community Council in an attempt to address the underspend in the Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford subfund. The Community Council was not functioning effectively prior to Covid and had ceased to meet at all in 2020 following Covid restrictions. However, a new Community Council was formed in summer 2022 as noted in the last report. The fund currently has an available balance of £201,411.43 which is equivalent to a little over six times the annual donation and has continued to increase year on year. An allocation towards a stalled project that has not been drawn down since being awarded in 2018 means the sub fund cash balance is actually £221,411.43. For context, out of a total of £276,098.72 made available in the AIF fund since 2015, only £42,535.31 has been distributed in grants. This total includes micro grant allocations to the Community Councils and awards from the AIF Education & Training fund which remain popular.

Foundation Scotland and the Community Council are still of the view that lack of capacity (i.e. few people being able/willing to drive projects) locally is the major obstacle to taking forward activity and a key reason behind the low spend from the Fund to-date. It was suggested in 2022 that a way forward could be to commission a freelance Community Development Officer (CDO). The Fund Advisor worked with the Panel throughout 2022 to develop a formal proposal to contract a part time self-employed CDO. The brief was to be the delivery of two outstanding projects identified by the Panel and Community Council in the past, plus the development of any additional opportunities to promote community activity for an initial period of up to two years.

Following a meeting between the Fund Advisor and the new Community Council in the autumn of 2022 the Community Council initially agreed to be the contracting organisation and to work with Foundation Scotland to take the project forward in 2023.

Unfortunately, at a subsequent meeting of the Community Council in early 2023 a decision was made not to take the project further despite the Community Funds Advisor's best efforts to overcome what amounts to a reluctance to spend funds on paying a salary to a person outside of the community. The CFA has stayed in contact with the Community Council in the period since, holding meetings with the Chair and attending Community Council meetings to promote the idea of taking action to create projects to utilise the funds.

During the entire period of this report only one eligible application has been received and in 2023 the existing Panel of just three remaining members fell into abeyance. In late 2023 it was possible to recruit and form a new Panel made up of four Community Council members and two independent members of the community. There was a formal Panel induction in July 2024 and the Panel met to review the fund in early September.

In informal discussions that followed the Panel Induction, proposals were made by the new panel for the Community Funds Advisor to approach the Auchterless School Parent Council regarding a range of opportunities and playground improvements not covered by statutory local authority budgets. In an initial meeting with the Parent Council Chair and school Secretary at the end of August an outline plan was agreed to create a number of grant awards under four different headings with the twin aims of improving the education offer, opportunity and environment for pupils and bringing the wider community together around an events programme aimed at stimulating new groups and activity more generally in the community.

The four headings are:

- **Playground Improvements** – Furniture, play equipment, growing.
- **Visits and Trips** – Museums, Aberdeen Science Centre, galleries, etc.
- **Sports, Arts, Science and Culture** – Visiting sports coaching, arts programmes, performances, science shows etc
- **Community** – Fayres and family days with activities and opportunities to socialise

An application is also in development for the refurbishment of a community owned former church at Inverkeithny to provide a new community hub for a range of groups, events and activities. The scope and ambition of the project is such that it could be significant in utilising a good proportion of available funds up to the value of one or two years annual donation to the AIF fund of around £31,000 pa.

# Applications and Grant Awards in the period

## Summary of Main Fund Awards

### [Fyvie & Rothienorman \(FRN\)](#)

**Fyvie and Surrounding Areas Baby & Toddler Group - £3,740** To purchase high quality solid wood snack tables specifically designed for the age and size of children who attend the group, plus a range of new predominantly wooden play equipment to create an improved play environment that supports individual child development and develops and supports parenting skills whilst providing a positive social experience.

**Fyvie School Parent Council - £3,144.** Towards the costs of painting game markings onto the tarmac and concrete parts of the school playground to enhance play during breaks, curriculum time, after school and at weekends, and to enhance and support social and physical learning for pupils.

**Millbrex Community Hall - £7,000** towards urgent external repairs to the building to prevent water and damp from causing substantial damage to the fabric of the building. The repairs included stripping off existing external harling and reharling and the replacement of gutters and fascia boards, including the safe removal and disposal of asbestos fasciae.

**1<sup>st</sup> Fyvie Guide Unit £1,875.** To purchase group equipment to support camping and other outdoor activity including district and national Girl Guiding events to ensure fair and equal access to its outdoor programme regardless of household income. Equipment included rucksacks, sleeping bags and Bucket hats.

**Rothienorman primary School Parent Partnership - £500** towards bringing a touring Christmas Pantomime to the school produced by a leading theatre in education company in November/ December 2024 for the whole school to enjoy including the school nursery.

**Fyvie and District Amenities Committee £3,000** towards the costs of purchasing an emergency generator and installing the necessary connection to the Glebe House electrical system. The Amenities Committee wish to work with the Church of Scotland, the building owners to establish the building as an emergency hub for the whole community.

**Gordon Group RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association) £900** Funds to enable six pupils from the area of benefit with physical disabilities & additional needs to continue to access RDA riding sessions to improve individual's wellbeing, confidence, and physical health and to improve their quality of life.

**Rothienorman Primary School Parent Partnership £1,500** Panel awarded funds towards a programme of extra-curricular and offsite activity for pupils for 12 months.

**Fyvie School Parent Council £1,500** Panel awarded funds towards a programme of extra-curricular and offsite activity for pupils for 12 months.

**Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council (Microgrants) £3,404.65** – To provide a fund to the community Council to distribute in the form of Micro grants to groups and individuals for the benefit of the community.

#### [Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford \(AIF\)](#)

**1st Fyvie Brownies - £6,130** To fund a five-day residential outdoor activity trip to improve mental and physical wellbeing – Unfortunately the project was unable to go ahead and the grant was returned to the fund.



## Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford (AIF) Education & Training Fund

Summary of education & training awards – Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford. April 11st 2022 to August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2024		
	Purpose	Amount
1.	To contribute to course fees, enabling study of Aircraft Maintenance Environment Training (AMET)	£1,500.00
2.	To fund course fees enabling study of Level 2 Makeup Diploma and Spray Tanning.	£900.00
3.	To support course costs towards various Forestry courses to enhance a career in Forestry,	£1,482.00
4.	Towards course fees and associated expenses in order to progress a career in Massage Therapy.	£752.54
5.	Towards expenses whilst studying Computer Games Technology at Abertay University in order to progress in a future career in Computer Games Design.	£300.00
6.	To fund ten driving lessons, to enable the applicant to access College independently where there is limited public transport	£750.00
7.	Towards accommodation costs for the second year of a degree course in Computer Games Technology at Abertay University in order to progress in a future career in computer games design.	£1,000.00
8.	To fund ten driving lessons, one theory test and one practical test to enable the applicant to access work independently where there is no public transport.	£548.00
9.	Towards year two fees for Admission to Counselling Skills 2022/3 at Aberdeen University.	£321.00
10.	To cover the costs of specialised IT equipment and towards accommodation and travel costs to attend a university BSC (hons) course.	£1,500.00
11.	To fund British Association of Snowsports ASP coaching, BASP first aid, and safeguarding course, accommodation, travel and subsistence costs.	£400.00

## Financial Overview

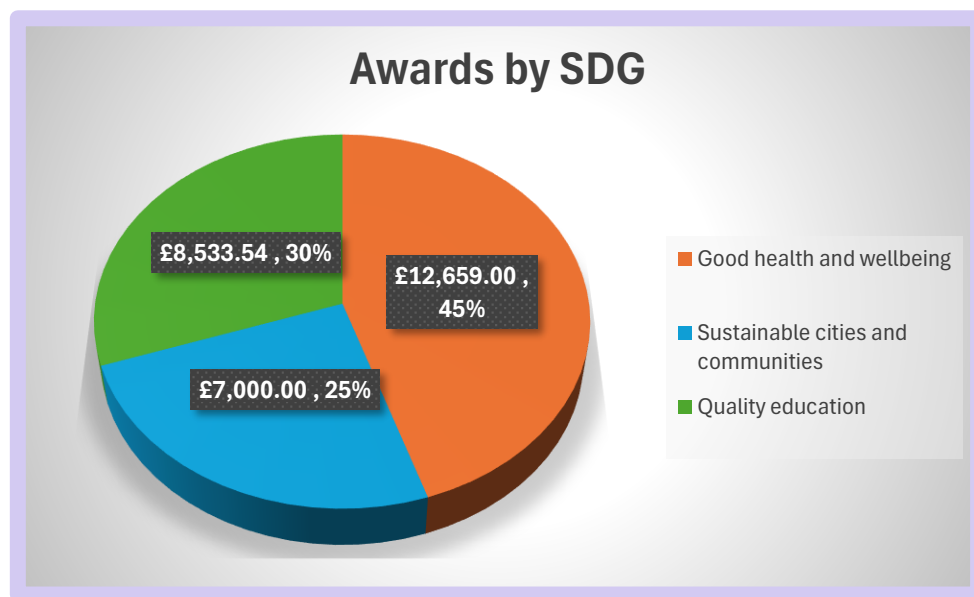
The following table summarises Fund finances from 1st April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

	Fyvie & Rothienorman	Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford	Total	Fund Management	Grand total
<b>Opening balance available</b>	<b>£9,961.25</b>	<b>£170,417.69</b>	<b>£180,378.94</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£180,378.94</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Nadara Gordonstown	£34,046.60	£60,527.28	<b>£94,573.88</b>	£11,348.87	£105,922.75
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£44,007.85</b>	<b>£230,944.97</b>	<b>£274,952.82</b>	<b>£11,348.87</b>	<b>£286,301.69</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Grants awarded to projects	£26,563.65	£6,130.00	£32,693.65		
Grants Awarded AIF education & training fund	£0.00	£9,533.54	£9,533.54		
Grants returned	£0.00	£-6,130.00	£-6,130.00		
<b>Net expenditure - grants</b>	<b>£26,563.65</b>	<b>£9,533.54</b>	<b>£36,097.19</b>		
<b>Grants allocated but not yet paid out</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£20,000.00</b>	<b>£20,000.00</b>		
Fund expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
FS Fund management fees	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,348.87	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£26,563.65</b>	<b>£29,533.54</b>	<b>£56,097.19</b>	<b>£11,348.87</b>	<b>£67,446.06</b>
<b>Closing balances available</b>	<b>£17,444.20</b>	<b>£201,411.43</b>	<b>£218,855.63</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£218,855.63</b>
<b>% funds distributed</b>	<b>60.36%</b>	<b>12.79%</b>	<b>20.40%</b>		<b>23.56%</b>

## Awards by Sustainable Development Goals

Foundation Scotland use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help assess the impact of awards made for each fund. The 17 SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are integrated; they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Each award from the fund has been assigned a primary SDG to which the purpose of the award fits most closely, although awards will often deliver across several SDGs. A summary of the value of awards made since April 2022 by their primary SDG's is given below. This shows a focus on only three SDG's.



## Fund Impact Studies

### Millbrex Community Hall – Fyvie and Rothienorman Fund

£5,000 towards removal and replacement of external harling to protect the integrity of the hall and secure safe community use for at least 20 years.



The hall prior to the repairs and as a work in progress



The new look building



Millbrex Hall was constructed forty-six years ago on land donated to the community for the purpose. Over time the external integrity of the building had declined, gutters had rusted and begun to leak, and the walls had become damp due to the condition of external harling. 2023 investments in new heating and lighting had improved the interior of the hall, however the external repairs had become urgent. On inspection it was also discovered that existing fascia boards for guttering were made from asbestos and had to be removed and disposed of safely. The grant from the fund enabled the repairs to be carried out and the hall remains a busy and popular asset for the community.



### **Rothienorman Primary School Parent Partner Group - Panel awarded funds £1,500.00**

Following the award by the Panel of £1,500 the teachers and parents agreed that the money should be used for mainly bus costs for summer trips to local attractions.

P1/2 and P2/3 headed to Huntly castle where they enjoyed exploring the castle and learning about the castle's history. The children, teachers and parent helpers had the pleasure of pupils from The Gordon schools in Huntly (dressed in traditional costumes) retelling the stories of the castle and the area. The classes were fortunate that the sun was shining!



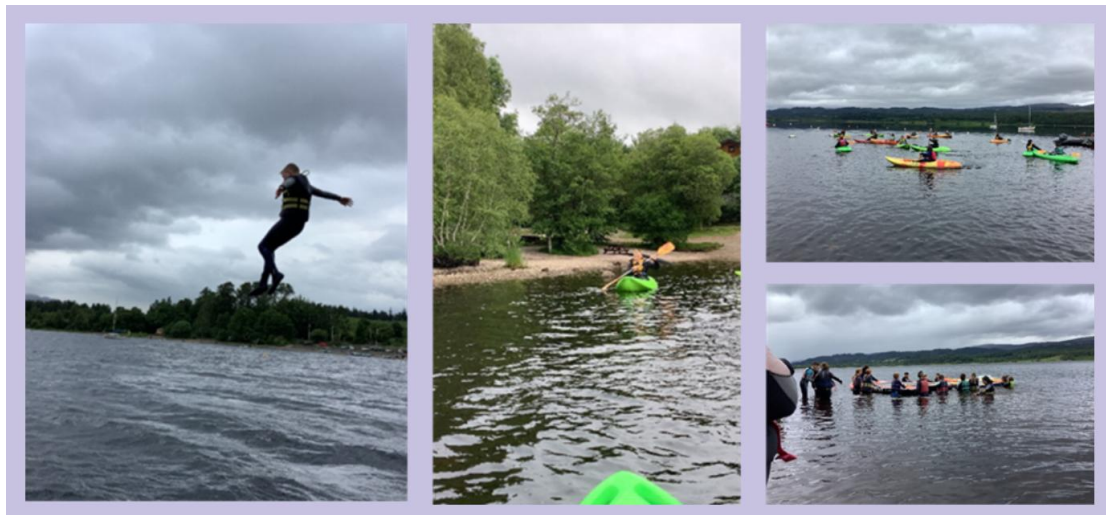
P3/4 took their bus to the Aberdeen Science Centre where they were able to interact with all the displays across the 4 zones of the Science Centre, this was followed by a volcano workshop in one of the laboratory classrooms. The children took part in a small interactive presentation where they gained knowledge on the formation of volcanos and were able to get hands on with volcanic rocks. This was followed by a fun experiment where pupils created their own volcanic eruption. The children enjoyed being able to dress up as scientists and explore all the interactive displays.

P4/5 and P5/6 took a trip to Bennachie Visitor Centre. Accompanied by one of the local rangers the children were able to explore the local fauna and flora with various tasks, such as a scavenger hunt, a hut building challenge and a minibeast hunt where they were equipped with magnifying pots and books to help identify what they had caught. One of the biggest highlights of the day was the pond dipping session, where the children were provided with nets and trays. The ranger then demonstrated the proper technique before the children were able to get hands on themselves. The pupils were very successful, catching one of the largest newts the ranger had seen (as can be seen in the image below)!





P7 headed off on their adventure to Loch Insch where they were able to take part in a variety of activities. The trip provided the children with the chance to learn what they are capable of and discover new strengths. It also facilitated the formation of stronger and new friendships. It allowed the children to test their perseverance and resilience and to try things they hadn't had the opportunity to take part in before such as canoeing and sailing. The staff were great working with the children and offering support in every activity. Each day was designed to maximise the time there, and there was plenty to keep the children entertained.



All nursery children were invited, along with p1/2 to enjoy a performance from Arties Tartan Tales (Singing Kettle). The children thoroughly enjoyed the music, dancing and getting involved with the performance. Many of the parents and staff reported that it was a reminder of their own childhood!



All the children across the whole school thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities that were enabled by the Nadara Gordonstoun Community Fund. In a time when school budgets are stretched and extra activity outside of the core curriculum is almost impossible for schools to fund, the opportunity to provide refreshing, fun and interesting experiences was a real bonus for pupils and staff. The grantee reports that “It was wonderful for the children to visit and take part in something new and different and for the teachers to be able to see the children in an environment outside the classroom. “



## Conclusions

During the period of this report the fund has supported a wide range of small but significant projects that have made an impact on the quality of life for local people, however this has been largely confined to the Fyvie and Rothienorman sub fund area where there are a large number of active groups and clubs with the capacity to apply for funding. In addition, the Panel has made direct awards where at the end of 2023 there was an underspend in the fund.

The picture is very different in Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford however where much of the traditional community infrastructure and social fabric has been eroded by a changing population with different work and activity patterns that extend well beyond the immediate local area. This has been compounded by a steady decline in church attendance over a considerable time, plus Fisherford and Inverkeithny primary school closures that has left the community without spaces and places to come together. Despite the best efforts of Foundation Scotland these fundamental social changes have created significant barriers to distribution. There are positive signs however under a new Community Council and with a new panel in place, where both are willing to consider innovative and creative ways to use the fund as a driver to address rebuilding community by investing in events and places that can draw this scattered community back together.

## Contact

For further information about the Fund, you can visit:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/gordonstown-auchterless-inverkeithny-fisherford>

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/gordonstown-fyvie-rothienorman>

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/gordonstown-education-training-fund-auchterless-inverkeithny>

**Or contact:**

Christopher Lee, Community Funds Advisor

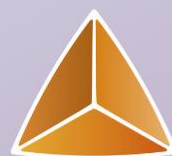
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