

# RWE

## Investing in Caithness

**Since 2008 RWE's operating wind farms have invested more than £3.5million into Caithness communities. The funds are driven by local people and provide valuable support for community projects as well as enabling local individuals to access education and training.**

The construction of Camster II Wind Farm brings the total number of wind farms RWE operate in Caithness to four. In total they will make community funds worth over £580,000 available to Caithness communities each year. In addition RWE's Golticlay Wind Farm, currently in construction, will further increase this total to over £900,000 per year by 2027.

Renewable energy funds of this scale offer the opportunity for RWE to support both the communities closest to our wind farms and the wider Caithness area.

### Listening to our local community neighbours

When designing our community funds, RWE is committed to working closely with the communities that live closest to our wind farms. Local community panels have been in the driving seat of deciding how our Caithness community funds have been allocated since their inception.

Throughout 2025 we've worked closely with these panels, listening to how they think this substantially increased funding opportunity should be used, and we're excited to now announce the next chapter in RWE's investment in Caithness communities.



# Introducing Caithness Futures

As Camster II Wind Farm is now fully operational, RWE is delighted to launch its new Caithness Futures Community Fund, a fund to benefit the whole of Caithness. Designed in consultation with our existing community panel members, the new fund will complement the operational RWE community funds and increase their impact across the whole Caithness area.

## Designed by local feedback

Workshop sessions enabled community members living close to our wind farms who are already involved in deciding how RWE's operational funds are spent, to share their views on how future funding should be used.



Several themes emerged that have been built into the plan for the new fund:

- A Caithness-wide fund to target gaps in existing funding provision.
- Themes that, at least initially, ensure competition for funds is reasonable. With universal themes such as health and wellbeing being early priorities.
- Fund designed to make the process as accessible as possible for applicants.
- Multiyear funding opportunities provided.
- Decisions made by panel members recruited based on skills and experience.
- Grant making focusing on opportunities for the funding to leave a legacy across Caithness.
- Open to collaboration and pooling funds with other funding sources.
- A commitment to provide an annual opportunity for both Caithness communities and other funders to come together to consider how things are working, best practise, consider what improvements could be made.

## RWE Funds in Caithness



### Local Funds: Supporting communities nearest to the wind farms

RWE's Bad á Cheò, Camster and Billbster Wind Farms will continue to provide funding opportunities primarily for their closest communities: The Watten, Tannach & District, Halkirk District, and Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Councils areas. All decisions on funding will continue to be made by local community panels.



### The Caithness Futures Fund

RWE's Camster II Wind Farm will support a new fund open to individuals and groups across Caithness. The fund will support individuals to access education and training and a modest maternity grant, as well as providing funding for initiatives that benefit the whole of Caithness.

# Who can apply to the Caithness Futures Fund?



## Opportunities for individuals

In the first year £80,000 will be allocated to funding for individuals. Part of the new fund will continue the Caithness-wide Education and Training Fund initiated by RWE's Camster Wind Farm Community Fund Panel. This will ensure individuals living within the wider Caithness area can continue to access up to £750 per annum towards education and training.

A further part of the new fund will be allocated to the establishment of Caithness Maternity Grants with the aim of reducing the financial burden of accessing maternity services. A grant of £250 will be offered to women in their third trimester, or before the baby reaches three months old to help with the cost of (for example) travel to Inverness, accommodation for themselves or other family members, childcare for older children or other concerns that an expectant mother may deal with.



## Opportunities for Caithness-wide community projects

The remainder of the fund, £80,000 in its first year, will initially focus on health and wellbeing projects that benefit the wider Caithness area.

We will be inviting proposals of up to £20,000 for health & wellbeing projects that will deliver on the Caithness Area Place Plan, most likely on multi-year investments in local projects.

From 2027 the budget for fund allocation will increase significantly as funds from RWE's Golticlay Wind Farm become available once that site is fully operational. The priorities for the fund will be kept under review as the funding available increases.



## Get involved

All decisions on the allocation of funding will be made by a panel of community representatives. To ensure a joined-up funding approach, we will invite the Caithness Community Planning Partnership to nominate up to two representatives to join the panel.

Two places on the panel will be reserved for young people based in Caithness (under the age of 30). The remaining 5 places (including a Chair) will be allocated via an open application process. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who live, work or volunteer in Caithness that have skills and experience in community planning or projects, and those with an understanding of health care and health and wellbeing issues. For more details and an application pack please contact Eilidh Coll.



## Tell us what you think

In 2026 we will host our first annual summit on how community funding in Caithness, primarily from renewable energy projects, is being distributed and benefiting Caithness communities.

We will be approaching other renewable energy funding providers to invite them to be a part of this event and most importantly it will be open to everyone in the wider Caithness community with an interest in how these funds are spent. The event will be advertised extensively later this year.



## How to apply

All of RWE's Caithness community funds are administered by grant making charity Foundation Scotland. For more information on our funding opportunities in Caithness, please visit [foundationscotland.org.uk/caithness-futures-fund](https://foundationscotland.org.uk/caithness-futures-fund) or contact their Caithness based Funds Advisor, Eilidh Coll, by email [eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk) or phone **07801 530218**.

## Enabling individuals across Caithness to achieve their career ambitions



### In 2025 RWE made a 'Future Bright' award to the panel of local community members that allocate the funding from Camster Wind Farm.

The award was in recognition of a groundbreaking decision they made to set aside some of their fund to ensure individuals across Caithness could access funding towards education and training.

So far £75,000 of funding from Camster wind farm has been used to support 78 individuals across Caithness, not just those living closest to our wind farms.

These awards have enabled people to access degree and masters courses in subjects ranging from law to Mechanical Engineering, Accountancy to Physics and Astronomy.

It's also helped people into vocational training from dance to wildlife and conservation management, academic qualifications, from primary teaching to acrobatic teacher training.

This funding has enabled people to access work placements and contributed towards University accommodation and course fees. It's invested in laptops that give access to remote, online study, as well as reducing the extent students need to work part time, allowing them to focus more attention on their studies. Due to the geographical remoteness of Caithness the funding has also enabled access, and off set travel costs, to reach specialist training.



"I, along with others on the panel, felt it was important to contribute to the Caithness Education and Training Fund because supporting opportunities across the whole county helps break down the geographical divides often associated with community benefit funds.

"This fund also helps bring our communities closer together. While community funds in the past have traditionally focused on the areas closest to the turbines, we believe adapting to the wider needs of the Caithness community reflects a more united, adaptable and forward-thinking approach."

Linda Malik Bremner |  
Camster Wind Farm Panel Member

## Feedback from grant recipients



Individual Award Recipient | Funding supported training in remedial and sports massage enabling the applicant to set up a business

“

“The grant has helped me to do the rest of my teacher training. I got placed in Brora for my probation year which is just over 52 miles away from where I live.

Having that extra money for travel costs has really made a difference, especially when I was not able to work much during the first part of my teacher training doing the Post Graduate Diploma in Education course. It is a career change for me which is a daunting and worrying time anyway so having that extra financial support has been much appreciated.”

Caithness-wide Individual Award Recipient

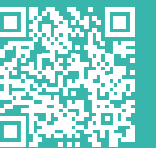
“

“This funding has provided me with the means by which I was able to take an idea and develop it into a fully realised and thriving business... without this funding, Studio Wellness simply would not be”

Individual Award Recipient

### For more information

Scan the QR code to watch our short film about the Caithness Education and Training Fund.



## RWE is investing in Caithness communities:

### £3.5 million+

has already been made available to communities through RWE's operational funds since 2008.

### £900,000

per annum will be made available from 2027 by RWE's five operational wind farms in Caithness.

### £580,000

per annum will be made available from 2026 by RWE's four operational wind farms in Caithness.

### £20 million+

of funding is still to come from RWE wind farms for Caithness communities over the next 35 years.



# Funding in action

## Camster Wind Farm Community Fund

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2025	Amount
Rumster Outdoor Centre Management Group	To install an outdoor classroom in the forest for community groups to hold forest activities and events.	<b>£27,000</b>
Lybster Day Centre Association	Towards the Centre's winter entertainment, increasing well-being.	<b>£4,368</b>
Lybster Outdoor Bowling Club	To undertake a professional energy efficiency survey prior to renovations.	<b>£383</b>
Caithness Voluntary Group	To support a befriending service for the elderly and isolated over the next three years.	<b>£10,000</b>
	For the Befrienders Projects monthly Lunch Group, helping older people to socialise and stay connected.	<b>£9,500</b>
Friends of Newton Hill Woodland SCIO	For mowing equipment to support biodiversity and help volunteers to maintain the site for community use.	<b>£23,899</b>
Latheron Agricultural Society	Towards the operational cost of the 100th Latheron Show.	<b>£24,000</b>
Thurso Football Academy	Towards a professional coaching programme to provide an outlet for physical activity for the young participants.	<b>£1,500</b>
Waterlines - Lybster Heritage Trust	Towards core organisational costs, helping the Trust to establish an effective foundation for sustainable growth.	<b>£2,500</b>
Watten ELC Parent Council	To build a polycrub on site to increase awareness around ecology to enrich early years experience.	<b>£9,696</b>
	To fund a fence to improve the health and safety of the children.	<b>£4,560</b>
	To fund a play tower to allow children attending Watten ELC safe and structured outdoor play.	<b>£6,895</b>
Watten Helps Out	To fund a pilot series of 10 Boxercise classes in Watten.	<b>£1,100</b>
	To provide refreshments for the monthly Whist Drive.	<b>£650</b>
	To fund a series of community classes from jewellery making to metalwork, furniture upcycling to glass painting and candle making.	<b>£8,638</b>
	To fund a pilot of weekly Winter Community Natters along with soup and sandwich through the winter months.	<b>£11,880</b>

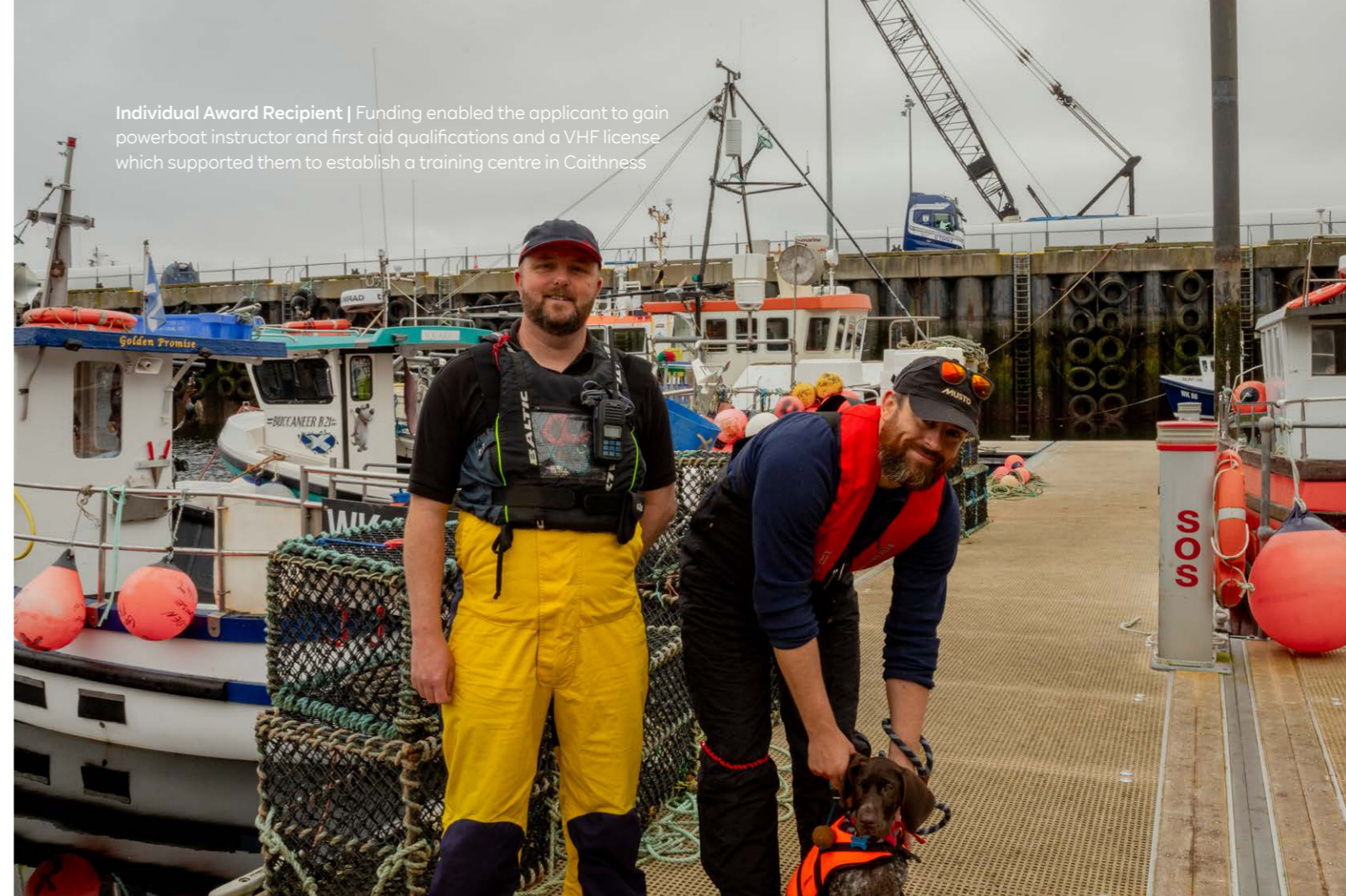
Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2025	Amount
Yarrows Heritage SCIO	To fund a 5 - 10 year strategic plan for Yarrows Heritage SCIO through community and stakeholder consultations.	<b>£11,040</b>
	To fund the 2025 exploration of Bronze/Iron age structures at Swartigill.	<b>£19,000</b>
Bower Primary School Parent Council	To improve the outdoor play area at Bower Primary School to create safe and fun outdoor play.	<b>£21,130</b>
Caithness Animal Farm Park	To fund a Park Coordinator to plan and oversee day to day running of the park and an annual programme of events.	<b>£9,000</b>
Lybster Primary School Parent Council	Towards bus transport for pupils to attend various events and additional educational activities.	<b>£3,000</b>
Watten Bowling Club	To purchase new uniforms and an umpire kit to improve the professionalism of the club.	<b>£1,107</b>
Watten Community Council	To create a unique Christmas light based on the winning design from an art competition at Watten Primary School.	<b>£1,958</b>
	To install dual sockets on Watten village lamp posts.	<b>£958</b>
Watten Football Club	To fund a mower and the costs for maintenance and contracting for two years.	<b>£18,417</b>
Billbster Craft Group	To fund a programme of youth, teen and adult craft sessions.	<b>£3,000</b>
Caithness Community Connections	To fund a programme of youth and teen clubs and adult craft sessions. Providing regular, accessible activities for local people of all ages.	<b>£19,500</b>
Caithness FM	Towards the cost of the 2025 Christmas Toy Appeal.	<b>£5,000</b>
Lyth Arts Centre	Towards continuing and developing drama and comics programmes, building confidence, creativity, and wellbeing in young people.	<b>£6,159</b>
	To enable a staff member to attend the Arts Marketing Association Conference to gain new skills.	<b>£1,440</b>
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Towards hands-on STEM workshops and community events preparing young people in Caithness and Sutherland for STEM careers.	<b>£4,500</b>
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Council	To fund microgrants for the local community.	<b>£2,500</b>
Tannach & District Community Council	To provide a micro grant scheme for the local community.	<b>£2,500</b>
Thrumster Gamefair	To contribute to the cost of running the 2025 Thrumster Game Fair as a free event for the community.	<b>£5,000</b>
Watten Village Hall SCIO	Top up grant for a new electric floor cleaner.	<b>£750</b>



## Funding in action

### Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2025	Amount
Northern Pilgrims Way Group (SCIO)	Towards employing a full-time seasonal Heritage Ranger for two years to develop and promote the Northern Pilgrims Way.	<b>£5,000</b>
	Towards the costs of constructing a traditional flagstone wall and providing stone signage.	<b>£6,000</b>
	To fund Northern Pilgrim's Way Group's project to landscape the area and increase accessibility.	<b>£1,514</b>
Hearing & Sight Care	Towards core costs of running Hearing and Sight Care Services for two years.	<b>£5,000</b>
	Towards the cost of lip reading and hearing loss classes in Dunbeath.	<b>£4,000</b>
Centred	To establish a Discovery College offering 15 courses for local people experiencing mental health issues, substance misuse and or isolation.	<b>£2,000</b>
Caithness Community Connections	To fund the Lybster Teen Group's weekly activities for one year.	<b>£5,000</b>
	To cover the ongoing costs of delivering weekly Crofters Crafts sessions.	<b>£3,864</b>
	To enable redistributing surplus food to the community, helping to alleviate food poverty.	<b>£4,781</b>
	Towards the cost of running structured youth club sessions.	<b>£4,983</b>
Caithness Animal Farm Park	To fund an Easter Extravaganza event providing themed activities so that families can enjoy new activities locally.	<b>£850</b>
	Towards the 2026 Easter Extravaganza.	<b>£2,000</b>
Latheron Agricultural Society	To contribute to the operational cost of the 100th Latheron Show.	<b>£3,000</b>
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Development Company (LLCCDC)	To part-fund the salary of the Centre Development Manager to develop Seaview House as a hub for the community.	<b>£5,000</b>
	Towards operating Lybster Community Toilets benefiting local people, visitors, and NC500 route users.	<b>£5,000</b>
Caithness KLICS (SCIO)	Towards the Sessional Support Worker to support rural young carers over the next four years.	<b>£8,000</b>
Halkirk Village Council	To redevelop the Church Street Playpark in Halkirk for the benefit of young people and families in the area.	<b>£10,000</b>
Watten Shop Group Limited	To undertake urgent electrical safety works and lighting improvements.	<b>£9,800</b>
Lybster Day Centre Association	Towards a cook to provide hot subsidised meals and an opportunity for Lybster residents to come together socially.	<b>£3,640</b>
Caithness Voluntary Group	Towards the purchase a Halkirk District Community Bus to be operated by Caithness Rural Transport.	<b>£7,500</b>
	Towards a full time Halkirk District Community Bus Driver and bus operating costs for one year.	<b>£7,500</b>
	To fund a full time Halkirk District Development Officer from April 2025 for one year.	<b>£9,024</b>



Individual Award Recipient | Funding enabled the applicant to gain powerboat instructor and first aid qualifications and a VHF license which supported them to establish a training centre in Caithness

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2025	Amount
Caithness Citizens Advice Bureau	The administration of the Watten Shop Voucher Scheme commencing in September 2025.	<b>£1,000</b>
	To create a Cost of Living Response Fund for the Watten community commencing in September 2025.	<b>£21,000</b>
Caithness Farmers Society	Towards the running costs of the newly established Caithness Farmers Society.	<b>£2,500</b>
Watten Football Club	Towards the ongoing costs of the Club through a multi-year award.	<b>£5,000</b>
Watten Hall (SCIO)	To replace heavy and dated tables and chairs with smarter stacking tables and chairs.	<b>£11,842</b>
Watten Helps Out	To fund a series of three wreath-making classes promoting community cohesion.	<b>£7,730</b>
Watten Parent Council	Towards the ongoing costs of the Watten Parent Council through a multi-year award.	<b>£5,000</b>
Rumster Outdoor Centre Management Group	To fund the archaeological investigation and geotechnical survey essential for the progression of the centre's construction.	<b>£5,000</b>
Sidh Chailleann Art	To contribute to the cost of the Rising Artists of Caithness 25/26 programme of mentorship, workshops and guidance towards career goals.	<b>£2,000</b>

Individuals - What was funded in 2025	Amount
Towards driving lessons for 26 people, increasing access to education and employment opportunities across the area of benefit.	<b>£12,657</b>
Towards studying BA Hons Journalism at Edinburgh Napier University.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying Humanities Articulation initially and Politics and Theology.	<b>£1,000</b>
To undertake the DVSA Approved Driving Instructors course leading directly to employment.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying Physiology and Sports Science BSc (Hons).	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards the costs of attending Abertay University to study BA (Hons) Game Design and Production.	<b>£775</b>
To undertake the IRATA Rope Access course in Inverness.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying Sociology and Criminology at Aberdeen University.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards course fees for an Open University module on Strategic Management.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study 3 Dimensional Design at Robert Gordon's University	<b>£300</b>
Towards studying for an MA in Linguistics and Social Anthropology.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study Bachelor of Science Marine Biology at the University of Stirling.	<b>£300</b>
Towards studying Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards the cost of completing Feline Experience (grooming) Course.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund course fees enabling completion of Landmaster Wood chipper and other relevant assessments.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards course fees to undertake Breathwork Practitioner Training.	<b>£1,500</b>
To study Adult Nursing at University of Strathclyde.	<b>£300</b>
Towards costs associated with studying for a BSc in Computing Science at Aberdeen University.	<b>£1,000</b>
To undertake Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Land-Based Engineering.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study a BSc (Hons) Agriculture through SRUC.	<b>£300</b>
Towards living costs and study aids whilst studying for a BSc in Psychology at Edinburgh University.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards travel expenses and study aids whilst studying for a Modern Apprenticeship.	<b>£940</b>
To fund a 12 week course in Mental Health Peer Support PDA to increase opportunities for employment.	<b>£267</b>
Towards studying Biological Science at Herriot Watt University.	<b>£750</b>
Towards studying for BSc Honours in Molecular & Cellular Biology.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study French MA (Honours) at the University of St Andrews.	<b>£1,500</b>
To undertake the First Aid at Work Requalification & Paddlesport Safety & Rescue courses.	<b>£534</b>
Towards studying for a BSc (Hons) Aircraft Maintenance.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards a laptop and associated expenses whilst studying.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund courses fees enabling study of AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounting.	<b>£1,452</b>

Individuals - What was funded in 2025	Amount
Towards course fees whilst studying Mechanical Engineering BEng.	<b>£976</b>
Towards course fees enabling completion of HGV C+E Training and Test.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards expenses whilst studying BSC (Hons) User Experience (UX) Design.	<b>£300</b>
To fund course fees enabling study of Personal Training course through PT Academy.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying BA (Hons) History at Stirling.	<b>£300</b>
Towards studying for BEng in Mechatronics.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying for MA Architecture.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying for BSc (Hons) Computer Science.	<b>£1,000</b>
To undertake training on Sheep Scanning provided though IMV Imaging.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying SVQ Level 2 Social Services and Healthcare SCQF 6.	<b>£750</b>
Towards studying SVQ Level 3 Social Services and Healthcare SCQF 7 course at the UHI Highland.	<b>£750</b>
To obtain a Mini Bus license.	<b>£1,370</b>
To undertake a short course: AMTRA (Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority).	<b>£300</b>
To study International Politics at Stirling University.	<b>£750</b>
Towards studying Biomedical Science for the next three years.	<b>£750</b>
To study Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) at University Of Edinburgh.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying for BA (Hons) in Film & Media.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards attending Edinburgh Napier University to study BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards attending Queen Margaret University to study BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary).	<b>£1,000</b>
To wards studying for a BA in History and Politics at Stirling University.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards the costs of completing the Excavator 360 training.	<b>£978</b>
Towards the costs of an undergraduate degree in Physiology at Aberdeen University.	<b>£1,500</b>
To undertake the Mindvalley Certified Hypnotherapist Program to expand on the services offered.	<b>£1,500</b>
To study BSc (Hons) Biological Science over four years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund the course fees for a home study Professional Diploma in Graphic Design.	<b>£1,425</b>
To train for the United Kingdom Alliance Associate in Ballet and other Contemporary dance styles.	<b>£1,220</b>
To undertake a full time one-year course: Access to Higher Education Level 6.	<b>£750</b>
Towards costs whilst studying MEng Mechanical Engineering.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards cost of studying MSci Neuroscience and Psychology.	<b>£500</b>
Towards studying Electrical installation SVQ Level 3.	<b>£300</b>
Towards the cost of studying Integrated Masters Biochemistry.	<b>£300</b>
Towards the cost of studying Ethical Hacking over four years.	<b>£300</b>

# Woodside Village Store

Robbie and Wendy McGowan



Funding supported the establishment of Watten Community Shop

## Funding in action Bilbster Wind Farm Community Fund

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2025	Amount
Bilbster & Thuster Hall SCIO	To establish a pilot junior group to hold monthly meets in their local hall.	<b>£1,000</b>
	To organise a series of traditional annual events for the community.	<b>£1,040</b>
Trinkie Heritage Preservation Group	To repair the damage to the pool wall, providing a safe space for people to continue to swim.	<b>£5,000</b>
Sidh Chailleann Art	To fund the running costs of the Caithness Art and Stone Festival in August 2025.	<b>£2,385</b>
Watten ELC Parent Council	Planning permission costs to enable the installation of a polytunnel to learn about food growing and ecology.	<b>£204</b>
Watten Helps Out	To fund Christmas Willow Workshops for all ages following the success of similar previous activities.	<b>£610</b>

### Get in touch

[rwe.com/in-your-community](https://rwe.com/in-your-community)

[community.investment@rwe.com](mailto:community.investment@rwe.com)

[instagram.com/rwe\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/rwe_uk)

### For more information

Scan the QR code to watch our short films about the community projects we support in Scotland.

