

# Community Funding Bulletin 2025



## Watten Wind Farm Trust

In partnership with the Watten Community Council, Foundation Scotland administers five local community benefit funds from local wind farms through the Watten Wind Farm Trust. The wind farms are: Gresham House Wathegar 1&2, RWE Bilbster & Bad á Cheò and ScottishPower Renewables 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.

### 2025 Fund activity

During 2025 the total spend was £359,551...



including 28 awards to community groups totalling £337,473



.. and 11 awards to people learning to drive totalling £5,500...



... and 12 awards to people doing other training courses or further education totalling £16,578.

#### Need more info?

Contact Community Fund Adviser,  
Eilidh Coll:



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07801 530218

### Watten's Core Groups

During 2025, the Panel identified eight local groups whose ongoing work is critical to the local residents. These eight groups were awarded a five-year sum to ensure their longevity for the benefit of the community. The allocations will total £110,000 annually and will go to:

Watten Helps Out - £60,000  
Watten Hall (SCIO) - £20,000  
Watten Bowling Club - £5,000  
Watten Community Council - £5,000  
Watten ELC Parent Council - £5,000  
Watten Football Club - £5,000  
Watten Parent Council - £5,000  
Watten Rifle Club - £5,000

# The 28 awards made in 2025 went to....

## 19 Watten based projects, which were awarded £276,292:

- ❖ **The 8 Watten Core Groups** £110,000
- ❖ **Watten ELC Parent Council** £204 – planning permission fees for a polycrubb
- ❖ **Watten Helps Out** £610 – Christmas Willow Workshops
- ❖ **Watten Shop Group Limited**
  - £66,200 – Watten Shop Voucher Scheme
  - £9,800 – To make the electrics safe
- ❖ **Watten Hall (SCIO)**
  - £1,360 – to install WiFi in the Hall
  - £12,000 – Car Park Extension and Resurfacing
  - £11,841 – New Tables and Chairs
  - £41,676 – Complete rewire and Fire Alarm Installation
  - £600 – Fire risk assessment
- ❖ **Caithness Citizens Advice Bureau**
  - £21,000 – Cost of Living Response Fund
  - £1,000 – Administration of the Watten Shop Voucher scheme



## 9 projects based elsewhere which were awarded £61,181:

- ❖ **Assynt Mountain Rescue Team** £15,000 – towards the purchase of a new base in Thurso
- ❖ **Caithness Farmers Society** £2,500 – Year 1 set up & Running Costs including such as speakers
- ❖ **John O'Groats Development Trust** £10,000 – John O' Groats super playpark
- ❖ **Caithness KLIKS (SCIO)** £10,000 – towards a Manager's post
- ❖ **Sidh Chailleann Art** £2,385 – Caithness Art & Stone Festival in Halkirk
- ❖ **Thurso Bowling Club** £4,042 – to install solar panels and battery storage
- ❖ **Thurso Football Academy** £2,000 – Professional football coaching in February 2026
- ❖ **Trinkie Heritage Preservation Group** £10,000 – for the Trinkie repair
- ❖ **Wick Development Trust** £5,254 – To install a Camperclean Unit in Wick



# Bad á Cheò Education and Training Awards

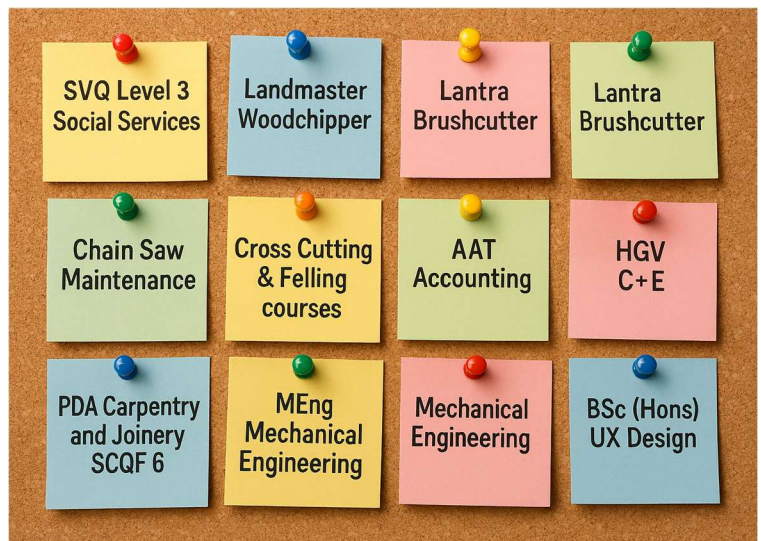
23 Watten residents received an award in 2025 with a variety of course choices:



**12 people** received a grant to undertake college or university courses or a short course, online course or a qualification to improve their career options



Plus **11 young people** received a grant towards the cost of driving lessons and the driving tests.



An educational grant can cover a number of costs linked to study to improve local people's opportunities for employment. You don't have to be unemployed to apply. The process is quick with awards made as soon as possible. There are no deadlines, and people can apply anytime. Interested in applying? Check the website: [bit.ly/BaCEdu](https://bit.ly/BaCEdu).

## What people have said about their grant



## Fund Impact – A Previous Grant

The Watten Shop Group Ltd is a Community Benefit Society run by a Committee of local residents who have come together to run the community venture to ensure that Watten has a local shop and community hub that is run for the community, by the community.

Whilst another local fund enabled the purchase of the shop, at the same time, the Watten Wind Farm Trust awarded £103,676 to fund essential costs for the first year of running a community shop in Watten to help ensure its success. This award, coupled with a community shares offer provided an unrestricted budget to be used where it was needed such as investing in staff, investing in the building, or investing in produce and marketing.

Volunteers visited other small shops to see stock and trading options. It was difficult in the beginning as the shop had no trading history and most suppliers were cautious. However, slowly, and after approaching many suppliers, relationships were built and the shop now stocks a variety of local produce, and is always in talks with potential new suppliers. This includes local meat, potatoes from John O'Groats, Caithness jam and chutneys from Halkirk, local honey, local eggs, home bakery products from Wick, and on Fridays, pies from Thurso.

*"The committee is grateful for the funding which has enabled stock purchases and the cash flow to pay people very quickly after an invoice is presented, so no local person is waiting to be paid"*

