



University of
St Andrews | FOUNDED
1413

Community Connections

2022





Town and Gown Reception, February 2020

Introduction by the Principal

The University of St Andrews is outward-looking, international, and global, but at the same time, small, local, and quintessentially Scottish. As an institution, we strive to enrich the lives not just of our students and staff, but those with whom it's our privilege to share this town, and the wider community of north-east Fife.

When I took up post as Principal in 2016, I was struck by the warmth and support the University enjoys from its local community, and how our fortunes are inextricably interwoven. Since then, I have sought to build on our strong and important local links, to meet the people and volunteers who contribute so much to the life, vibrancy and cohesion of the wider St Andrews community, and to consider how we can support and celebrate those vital contributions.

This first issue of *Community Connections* highlights some of the groups and individuals whose work we have been fortunate to support, primarily through awards from our University Community Fund, which we set up at the outset of the Covid pandemic in 2020.

I'm delighted to say that our donors and alumni were quick to endorse the aims of the Community Fund, enabling us to make more awards than we initially thought possible. Those who have been students here in the past told us how much the town and the community were integral to their time here, and responded generously, from all over the world. St Andrews is dear to many more than those who live, work or study here.

Looking ahead, we hope to strengthen and extend our community links and support further through Fife, and it has been an inspiring experience for us to learn of the work and activity of the multitude of projects and groups who make this community as special as it is.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of *Community Connections*, and I look forward to meeting you in the weeks and months ahead.

Professor Sally Mapstone FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



About the fund

In placing Social Responsibility at the heart of its Strategic Plan (2018-2023), the University of St Andrews recognises the importance that supporting grassroots organisations and projects plays in local society. Looking to develop greater connections with local projects and increase engagement with communities, St Andrews launched the University Community Fund in April 2020.

At the time of the launch, the world had been forced to react to an unprecedented crisis – the coronavirus pandemic. The University recognised that local organisations would be key to any community's response and recovery from the pandemic. In St Andrews and across Fife, these groups responded with a will and bravery which must be commended.

The Fund enables the University to play an active role in supporting local communities and engage with potential partners to work together to the benefit of all those living across Fife. Many of our students and staff members volunteer locally or sit on the boards of charitable organisations. Philanthropic giving of time or money is very much a part of the makeup of our society, and we were keen to foster this at the University.

One of the most important aspects of the Community Fund is the creation and expansion of sustainable relationships with the organisations and projects we financially support. We hope it creates new opportunities for both the University and the local community, extends the University's connections with communities across Fife, and helps to build resilience within those communities.

The University Community Fund is overseen by a panel of representatives from across the institution: Vice-Principal Governance, Alastair Merrill; Director of Communications, Niall Scott; Strategic Advisor in External Relations, Stephen Gethins; Head of Campaign and Donor Relations, Heather Edie; and Lesley Caldwell, Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Officer, who also manages and administrates the fund.



To apply to the University of St Andrews Community Fund visit www.st-andrews.ac.uk/community/community-fund

Comments from members of our panel

“It has been inspirational to see so many worthwhile projects coming forward through the University Community Fund. As we emerge from the pandemic, the opportunity to support initiatives to help our communities rebuild and thrive has never been more important, and it has been a pleasure and privilege to be involved.”

Alastair Merrill

Vice-Principal Governance

“It is so important to reach out beyond St Andrews since the University's footprint extends further than the town. We have increased our interaction with local schools and have had really good feedback from those who have benefitted.”

Stephen Gethins

Strategic Advisor in External Relations

“I have been delighted to be involved in the University Community Fund, not only as a member of staff but also as a member of the local community. The work undertaken by such a diverse range of worthwhile projects has been genuinely inspiring and I look forward to seeing the impact the funding will have.”

Heather Edie

Head of Campaign and Donor Relations

Facts and Figures

Core University donation of **£30,000** per annum

£109,666.20 donated

83 separate donors

110 applications received to date

81 successful applications

£192,694.42 requested

£130,211.33 awarded

Locations: Anstruther, Cupar, Ceres, Craigothie, Guardbridge, Falkland, Freuchie, Pittenweem, St Monans, Leven, Lochgelly and St Andrews

10+ Covid	14+ Sport
15+ Culture/Heritage	10+ Youth
12+ Environment	13+ Inclusion



Covid

- **St Andrews Environmental Network:** £500 to purchase PPE for essential energy and environmental activities
- **St Andrews Voices:** £3000 for breathing and singing workshops to contribute to the recovery of long Covid
- **Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council:** £1000 for items for the local community, such as PPE and IT equipment to support home learning

Sport

- **Falkland Cricket Club:** £916.80 to support the 'back to cricket' winter indoor programme for juniors and women
- **Cupar Dive Club:** £1340 to purchase new equipment for beginner divers and future diving students
- **Raith Rovers Ladies and Girls Football Team:** £500 for the oldest affiliated team in Scotland to provide training equipment for women and girl players aged six to adult

Environment

- **St Andrews Botanic Garden:** £3000 for the Tangled Bank, which provides learning opportunities about the three most threatened habitats in Fife
- **St Andrews Tennis Club:** £1005 for trestle tables, benches and materials for a pergola for the Safe Gardening Group, a mental health support group that meets weekly in St Andrews Tennis Club Garden
- **Friends of Silverburn Park:** £1500 towards restoration of Silverburn Park Retting Pond

Case study

Wheels to Work, Levenmouth

During the Covid pandemic, key workers played a crucial role in making sure people had food, as well as access to healthcare and education. However, with public transport often being scaled back due to a drop in demand, some key workers found it difficult to get to work.



Thanks to the innovative keyworkers bike loan scheme based at Silverburn Park in Leven, many local people were able to access employment, volunteering and education in a safe and sustainable way.

“We saw how successful the bike loan scheme was during the Covid-19 lockdowns and wanted to extend this. The Wheels to Work scheme was developed to offer free bike hire to anyone struggling to get to work or further education on foot or by public transport.”

This initiative, run by Community Interest Company (CIC) Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT), was such a success that FEAT went on to develop the 'Wheels to Work scheme'.

Duncan added that, thanks to financial support from the University Community Fund, project organisers were able to ensure bikes were safe and well maintained.

Chief Executive Duncan Mitchell explained FEAT was set up to ensure support for people who may suffer a lack of employment or other opportunities due to mental ill-health and the stigma that can surround it.

He said: “Our vision is to enable and support individuals to reach their full positive mental wellbeing and a huge part of that is removing barriers to work, volunteering and education.



For more case studies visit the University Community Fund website at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/community/community-fund/ucf-case-studies

The Community Fund is a rolling programme; any money not allocated within a round is carried over to the next round.

Culture/Heritage

- **Dance St Andrews:** £1125 for the Digital Dance programme, pre-recorded dance classes for pre-schoolers and the elderly
- **Ceres Highland Games:** £1500 for the Special Event Heavies Championship to fulfil a historic commitment to perpetuate the celebration of Scotland's local heroic contribution
- **Heids & Herts Scotland (CIC):** £3000 for cultural events in Howe of Fife villages to provide a fresh focus for community connections

Inclusion

- **Include Me:** £1596 towards awareness raising and digital information sharing for volunteer advocates and people seeking advocacy support
- **Peace of Mind Services Ltd:** £3000 for the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership to support people with learning disabilities to explore life outside day centres
- **Lucky Ewe:** £3000 to support accessibility and improve access for those with mobility and sensory impairments

Youth

- **Lawhead Primary Parent Council:** £1500 towards new ground markings, multi-use nets, warm-up circles and activity trails for outdoor learning
- **St Monans Charitable Trust:** £1245 towards a new inclusive children's play park on St Monans common
- **Cupar Kids Club:** £1244 to purchase new outdoor equipment for fresh air fun, including scooters, a mud kitchen and gardening tools



“With the University’s support we have been engaging audiences in and around St Andrews and sharing information about how our local flora is responding to climate change and biosecurity threats.”

St Andrews Botanic Garden

“The University Community Fund has really helped us achieve what we initially perceived to be the impossible! Covid impacted community groups more than we could have imagined.”

Byre Youth Theatre



“The funding made a large impact on our charity. We were able to bring together over 100 people of all ages and backgrounds, working towards a cause that will benefit many people for years to come.”

Footprint East Neuk

“The grant will enable us to offer new experiences to the children we work with through purchasing season tickets to St Andrews Botanic Garden, Craigtoun Country Park and St Andrews Aquarium. The children love going to these places with their Befrienders.”

Families First



“The fund was so helpful during the tight restraints of the Covid pandemic when we had no income whatsoever. It helped us to a quicker recovery.”

Girlguiding St Andrews



“It’s fair to say that the contribution from the fund was a major factor in allowing us to keep the Ceres Highland Games going in 2021.”

Ceres Highland Games



“The funding has had a real positive impact, helping us regenerate interest in both Junior and Women and Girls cricket resulting in very healthy numbers in both sections. Many thanks again.”

Falkland Cricket Club



“The Community Café in Cupar is so positively received by migrants and local people. People are integrating and enjoying each other’s company and this all supports migrants with their English or ‘Scottish’ language.”

Fife International Forum

“Over 1500 face coverings made and over £5500 raised for local causes. Hundreds of masks were also given for free to local schools and charities.”

Community Aid St Andrews (CASA)



“Having the resources provided by the University Community Fund to reach out to communities across the Howe and work with local artists has been invaluable to our organisation, especially as we navigate away from the loneliness and isolation enforced on all of us by the pandemic.”

Heids & Herts Scotland (CIC)



East Fife and Scooniehill Riding for the Disabled

“Attending events like international jamborettes both widens their horizons as to what they can achieve in scouting and the wider world, and increases their skills for life.”

North East Fife Scouts



“Integral to the new station will be a crew training room and we are delighted that the University has generously donated £3000 towards the cost of this room. Providing ongoing training is essential to making sure we make the right decisions at key moments in rescue operations.”

Anstruther RNLI

“The grant has been very welcome and has enabled us to continue paying for piping and drumming tuition, which has been extremely beneficial for our learner pipers and drummers.”

Cupar Pipe Band



Woolworking at Lucky Ewe



Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

“So many people have commented on how good the kit looks and we are so very appreciative of your fantastic support.”

St Andrews Colts Football Club

“With the help of a generous donation from the University Community Fund and other bodies we at last have the ability to provide an inclusive, all abilities playpark for children.”

St Monans Charitable Fund



“In addition to providing an opportunity for women to participate in the sport of football – something which didn’t previously exist in this area – we’ve also experienced the further benefit of seeing a mix of students and local women attending.”

St Andrews & East Neuk Girls (and Women’s) Football Club



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Our thanks

For 600 years the University, the town and the wider community of Fife have shared in each other's challenges and successes. The donations to the Community Fund reflect the continuing bond of care. Our thanks go to all the donors to the University of St Andrews Community Fund to date and all of those who continue to support our Fund and its activities.

If you would like to donate to the fund or have any questions, please email community@st-andrews.ac.uk.



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