

Community Land Festival

A celebration of community landowners
17 October - 2 November 2025



* FEARANN | COMMUNITY *
COIMHEARSNACHD | LAND
NA H-ALBA | SCOTLAND



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Introduction

Introduction

A Celebration Across Scotland

The 2025 Community Land Festival brought together communities across Scotland to celebrate the power and potential of community ownership. This annual event highlights how local people can take charge of land and buildings, and the positive impact this has on community life, wellbeing, and connection. The Festival also inspires new groups to engage, demonstrating the many ways communities can come together to celebrate their achievements and share their spaces with others.

Participation and Reach

This year, **35 groups** hosted events, including **16 first-time participants**, drawing **3,675 attendees** and supported by **378 volunteers and staff**. A total of **£10,200** was distributed in bursaries to help groups deliver their events. Each group was supported with printed, tailored posters and flyers to promote their activities locally, alongside a template press release and national and regional PR coverage. An extensive social media campaign amplified their stories and drew visitors from near and far.

Groups were also asked to rate the support they received from Community Land Scotland on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best). Across all responses, the average score was an outstanding **9.77**, reflecting the value groups placed on tailored guidance, promotional support, and the Festival framework in helping them deliver successful events.

Events That Inspired

The events themselves were as diverse as the communities hosting them. Families carved pumpkins and explored spooky walks; community gardens opened their gates for workshops, honey tastings, and music; woodland trails offered bat walks, storytelling, and lantern-making; and open days in community halls showcased arts, crafts, films, and local history. Some events were intimate, bringing neighbors together over afternoon teas and quizzes, while others drew large crowds to celebrate milestones such as anniversaries, building acquisitions, or memorial openings.



Groups reported overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Children and adults alike enjoyed hands-on activities, cultural performances, and the chance to connect with their neighbours.

One group noted, “People made gravestones and crosses, served amazing hotdogs and hot chocolate, we had children and adult ‘scarers’ and some people even made a full coffin! The feedback has been great and everyone really enjoyed themselves.”

Another shared, “We were delighted to see so many generations of family coming out together to celebrate the event. So much effort and creativity had gone into the pumpkins and no two were the same. Just brilliant!”

Challenges and Resilience

While many events ran smoothly, groups faced challenges common to volunteer-led activities. Weather, timing, and staffing pressures were frequent hurdles, alongside the logistics of multi-site events and planning for uncertain attendance. Some groups noted the need for continued funding to sustain posts or cover costs. Yet, despite these obstacles, communities demonstrated creativity, adaptability, and resilience, ensuring their events were successful, memorable, and deeply valued by attendees.

A few groups were ultimately unable to participate this year. Two withdrew due to limited volunteer capacity, and another could not take part because the cost of insurance for an event in their historic building was prohibitive. These examples highlight the ongoing need for bursary support, practical guidance, and resources to help communities overcome barriers and bring their ideas to life.

The Festival’s Impact

The following report shares the story of this year’s Festival. It presents headline numbers and outcomes, highlights the variety of events across Scotland, and showcases the creativity, determination, and community spirit that make the Community Land Festival such a vital celebration of shared ownership.



Festival Events



Participating Communities

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 7 | A' the Airts | 25 | Inchinnan Development Trust |
| 8 | Agnew Lane Ltd. | 26 | Langholm Initiative |
| 9 | Annan Harbour Action Group | 27 | Maud Village Trust |
| 10 | Birdston Regeneration Group SCIO | 28 | Newmains Community Trust |
| 11 | Bressay Development Ltd | 29 | Nith Valley Leaf Trust |
| 12 | Carsphairn Community Woodland | 30 | Pairc Trust |
| 13 | Castle Douglas Development Forum | 31 | Pitlochry Town Hall |
| 14 | Cockenzie House & Gardens | 32 | Port Bannatyne Development Trust |
| 15 | Crail Community Partnership | 33 | Staffin Community Trust |
| 16 | Culbokie Community Trust Limited | 34 | Strathfillan Community Development Trust |
| 17 | Dumfries High Street | 35 | The Inverclyde Shed |
| 18 | East Kilbride Community Trust | 36 | The Pyramid |
| 19 | Easter Breich Wood Community Group | 37 | Upper Eskdale Development Group |
| 20 | Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company | 38 | Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh |
| 21 | Friends of Glenan Wood | 39 | Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn |
| 22 | Friends of the Broadway Prestwick | 40 | WATIF |
| 23 | Gallan Head Community Trust | 41 | Wester Loch Ewe Trust |
| 24 | Greener Kirkcaldy | | |

A' the Airts

Fifteen!

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 31 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 6

Number of Attendees: 30

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We have participated in the Festival for several years. It is always refreshing to think of new ways to celebrate the success of community assets, and this is the best approach we have found. Our young people created a film and a PowerPoint presentation about the Centre, which we showcased during the event. Our Chair reminisced about past achievements and the history of the Centre. This year was a special event as it was called 'Fifteen' as the Centre is fifteen years old this year.

Outcomes and community feedback:

Our attendees were very proud of the achievements of the Centre, but also the young people who made the work.



Agnew Lane

Taking Root

Event at a glance:

Location: Glasgow City

Date: 2 November 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 8

Number of Attendees: 25

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

We had a reading of two short plays which were commissioned by Climate Change Theatre Action, an international project using creativity to foster dialogue about the climate crisis. We wanted to do an event to allow people to consider how our community project sits in a global context, how it connects to other actions and activity all over the world. It gave us a chance to think, to reflect and mull on big epic questions whilst we sat around the fire with a mug of cocoa.

It brought new people to the lane who had never been before, and also sparked new kinds of conversations and interactions between people who are already part of the project. It created a gentle space to sit with difficult questions, to feel connected, and to tentatively imagine positive futures together.

The comments that I remember from people at the end were 'excellent' and 'magic'!

Outcomes and community feedback:

At a time when we are facing significant challenges against our eventual goal of community ownership, it felt really special and important to do something which brought us together in a positive way, and gave us a reprieve from the struggle and a reminder of the heart and soul of the project. Previously, we have done a number of events which are purely social in nature, so this was something new for us to feature performance. But it was very positively received to have something a bit more, that felt a bit special, that gave us a chance to think and interact a bit differently - whilst still retaining the food and fireside chat which people love.

Challenges:

Weather - as it was outdoors it was a risk. In the back of our minds we knew that we were at the mercy of that. And with any volunteer organisation, there were issues around capacity and people's ability to find and commit time to support the event.

Annan Harbour Action Group

Pumpkin Patch (Family fun day)

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

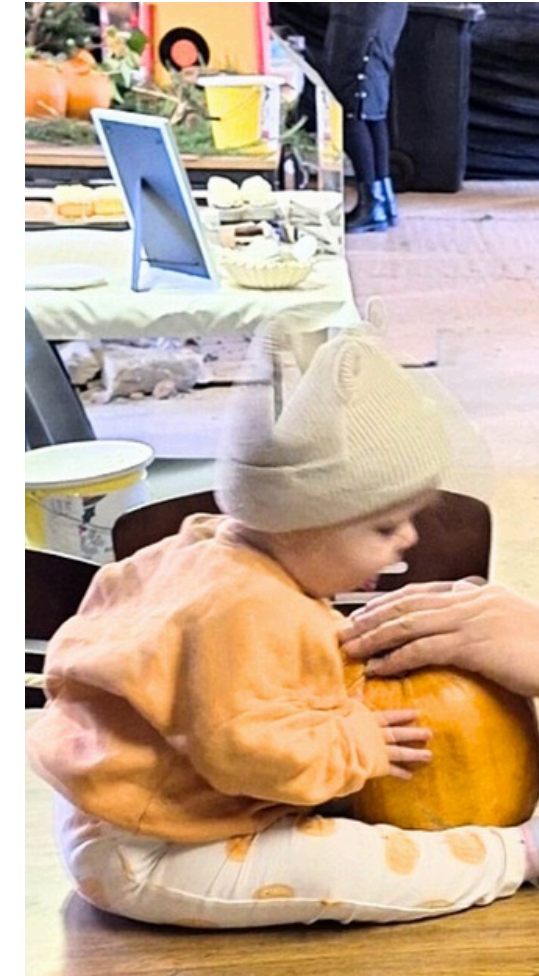
Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 24

Number of Attendees: 110 children and up to 150 adults

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

Our Pumpkin Patch event took place on Saturday 25th October at Annan Harbour, bringing together over 100 children and their families for an afternoon of seasonal activities. Participants enjoyed picking their own pumpkins, crafting, face painting, marshmallow toasting, and capturing memories at our photo zone. The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate autumn, engage the community, and connect people with the harbour. Feedback was positive, with families appreciating the creativity, fun, and relaxed atmosphere, and volunteers noting the joy of seeing children so happy and engaged.

One participant shared: “It was really well organised with brilliant things for the kids to do. They absolutely loved it and so did I. Thank you so very much and well done.” Taking part in the Festival allowed us to showcase the value of community-led events, give families a chance to spend meaningful time together, and highlight the positive impact such events have on local wellbeing.

Outcomes and community feedback:

Participants and families gave positive feedback. Children enjoyed picking pumpkins, crafting, face painting, and marshmallow toasting, while volunteers noted the joy of seeing so many happy and engaged faces. Families appreciated the creativity, fun, and relaxed atmosphere, with one participant commenting: “It was really well organised with brilliant things for the kids to do. They absolutely loved it and so did I. Thank you so very much and well done.” Overall, the event strengthened community connections and provided a meaningful, seasonal experience for families.

Challenges:

The biggest challenge we faced was attracting enough volunteers to help deliver the event. Although we had support from some Trustees, members, and our regular volunteers, it required careful planning and coordination to ensure all activities were staffed and the day ran smoothly.

Birdston Regeneration Group SCIO

Family Treasure Hunt

Event at a glance:

Location: East Dunbartonshire

Date: 26 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 12

Number of Attendees: 55

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

BRG is moving towards the acquisition of Birdston Woods (G66 1RW). We were keen to let our community see the site and the Festival was the perfect opportunity to do this. We ran a family Treasure Hunt to showcase the woodland. The weather was awful so the number of teams taking part was lower than we had hoped for. However, the adults and kids that did take place enjoyed the event, experienced Birdston Woods (often for the first time) and learned more about the area in which they live. Feedback from the participants was excellent.

We were delighted that our project in a Glasgow suburb could qualify for the Community Land Festival. Participation in the Festival has added credibility and greater recognition for our project. Thank you.



Outcomes and community feedback:

Many in the community now appreciate the beauty and potential of Birdston Woods. They are excited at the prospect of community ownership.

Challenges:

The weather was awful in the hours prior to a during the first hour of the event. Prior to that the organisation was smooth with our team working happily and effectively together.

Bressay Development Ltd

Bressay In About Da Night

Event at a glance:

Location: Shetland

Date: 31 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 5

Number of Attendees: 22

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We own and run a community building and run a community woodland and we hoped to use the festival as a way to highlight the things we do. We are lucky to live in a community with such great community facilities - a Public Hall, Heritage Centre, community garden, sports pitch, galley shed, woodland and community hub - this deserves to be celebrated.

We held a storytelling event at Speldiburn where we shared history, poetry and prose, all local to our island or experienced by members of the community and we accessed stories collected by the Bressay History Group. Linking heritage, community and buildings. We also used the event as a way of sharing these themes more widely through our community newsletter.



Outcomes and community feedback:

The event was different from anything we've done before and was really enjoyed by those who took part. The participants included our island's oldest resident who told stories from her younger days and a woman only recently settled here who shared her own poems written about her initial experiences of island life. We will aim to hold similar events in the future, and to document the stories we hear.

Challenges:

We have had a very busy year so we do struggle to add new things onto our calendar, we are a group of volunteers so time is always our biggest issue.

Carsphairn Community Woodland

Lantern making and bonfire

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 26 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 2

Number of Attendees: 20

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We have been wanting to invite the local community into the woodland more regularly. We want them to feel a sense of ownership for the land and feel welcome to enjoy the woodland and the playpark and bird hide we have here.

Being a part of the festival made it possible for us to run a lantern making event and have a bonfire. It's a good time of the year to bring a bit of light back to people and have a social gathering as well as getting creative. It felt meaningful that people enjoyed making the lanterns and having marshmallows and socialising. one participant said 'thank you - it has been lovely for us (a couple) to build something together that is not our house!'

It was great to see people coming out into the woods to get creative despite the horrid weather and it was really nice to have a mixture of people - families with young children, teenagers, adults and even people who just came to have a cuppa and a chat.



Outcomes and community feedback:

Everybody who attended the event was pleased to take home a lantern and really enjoyed themselves despite the weather! Marshmallows were appreciated by all ages!

Challenges:

Not being sure how many people would attend. It was difficult to plan how much equipment was needed.

Castle Douglas Development Forum

Crannog Coorie-In

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 31 October - 2 November 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 8

Number of Attendees: 40

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We took part in the festival to put our community asset back on the map. The Crannog, once an outdoor centre run by the council and closed in 2019, sits on the edge of Carlingwark Loch in a dark, quiet part of the park. We're reactivating it as a family-friendly hub for indoor and outdoor activities, which we hope to retrofit as a net-zero space. Instead of the usual Halloween or bonfire night events, we created the Coorie In festival.

We organised karaoke, bingo, a bushcraft workshop, a bat walk, and a craft session for kids. We thought karaoke and bingo would draw in people who might not usually visit, but they were our least attended. The bat walk, led by a qualified expert and followed by hot chocolate in the Crannog, was our biggest hit — families from toddlers to people in their 70s joined. We also discovered that our building is a site of national importance, with over 300 bats observed in flight, which is exciting and will help guide the renovation.

Part of our success came from partnering with Luck and Trust, who saw our festival posters and connected us with rangers and volunteers to spread the word. The bushcraft workshop



was affected by stormy weather, but participants loved it and asked for it to become a regular activity. The craft workshop had a small turnout, and we learned we need to improve communication so more people know what's happening.

Even with a small amount of funding and some well-designed posters, we were surprised by the impact. We feel our reputation as a provider of indoor and outdoor community activities is growing, and we hope to run the Coorie In festival again next year, subject to funding.

Outcomes and community feedback:

We've seen our reputation grow as a family activity centre, with more children and young people spending time around our building. We also noticed increased interest in the local environment, shown through informal conversations with people who came back after the guided walk. Participants asked us to repeat the event next year, and we even received specific requests to add Bushcraft activities to our programme.

Challenges:

Reaching communities of interest - as the Crannog is 'new' many people still don't know it's open and in use. The weather!

Cockenzie House & Gardens

“It’s Ours” celebration of the Auld Kirk

Event at a glance:

Location: East Lothian

Date: 1 November 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 12

Number of Attendees: 150

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

"It's Ours" event was the launch of Cockenzie House & Garden's acquisition of the Auld Kirk and its Hall.

We decided to take part in the Festival because Community Land Scotland helped us so much in the acquisition of the Auld Kirk in ways that the legal profession - by their own admittance - could not. Our inclusion reinforced to all those involved, all those who came to event and the local community to realise how significant community ownership is. We were part of something national and historic.

Our event was very well attended and it was so great to hear everyone's whoops of delight at how we had refurbished the building, the new historical facts which we had uncovered during the refurbishment. So many reactions of the type, "so glad this is not being made into houses". Very touched and felt privileged by the support and approval the refurbishment received from the last congregation of the Auld Kirk.



Challenges:

Getting the building ready

Crail Community Partnership

Crail Community Celebration

Event at a glance:

Location: Fife

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 6

Number of Attendees: 90

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

As an organisation, we had a number of community projects to promote. It seemed to be a good idea to look at the resources within the community and bring them together to showcase their achievements and look for new recruits. We had the opportunity to explain to the attendees the level of Community Land and Property Ownership that exists in Crail.

The most successful aspect was that the various groups (about 18 voluntary groups within the community were represented) got to know each other and found support and knowledge within the wider group to further their objectives. The feedback was very favourable with participants reporting sign-up by new volunteers, sharing knowledge and experience on funding and finding mutual support within the group. Generally participants would like us to repeat the exercise annually.

All those attending welcomed the opportunity to get together. It was helpful to have Government backing for this.



Outcomes and community feedback:

Several groups attending recruited new members/volunteers. Most gained knowledge and support from other groups. The energy and enthusiasm at the event has revitalised this voluntary sector in Crail.

Challenges:

Compiling lists of organisations, with contact details, was not straightforward. Otherwise, whilst the groups were enthusiastic and eager to attend, attracting members of the public is always a challenge.

Culbokie Community Trust Limited

Halloween on the Green 2025

Event at a glance:

Location: Highland

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 25

Number of Attendees: 140

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We hosted an outdoor Halloween event on Culbokie Green for children and families and for everyone in the community. Activities included mask making, fancy dress and carved lantern competitions, a magic show, a treasure hunt, toasted marshmallows and a short theatrical visit from our local drama group. It was really good to see so many people spread out across the Green involved in all the activities and hunting down treasure in every nook and cranny. We were particularly pleased to have involved the Culbokie Players who gave a fantastic performance based on a local myth about the Ferintosh witch. Being part of the Land Festival meant we were part of something much bigger than the village. We've had lots of great very positive verbal feedback from participants as well as positive engagements on Facebook.

Outcomes and community feedback:

Mainly that everyone participating had an excellent time. The volunteers helping on the day also said they enjoyed it although the organising group of 4 people felt under some pressure.



Challenges:

The weather! As an outdoor event we can never be sure we can go ahead until a few hours before the event. Even though we have a timber shelter we also need one or two gazebos for some of the activities. These simply can't be erected in high winds, and rain would deter families from coming along. This year we'd booked the village hall as back up. Luckily we didn't need it as, with the numbers attending we could have been over capacity. However, the uncertainty adds to the stresses of the event.

Dumfries High Street

Midsteeple Quarter Community Celebration

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 30 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 4

Number of Attendees: 20

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

We took part as wanted to showcase the importance of community ownership. The event enabled us to develop a new partnership with Dumfries Music Collective and brought young musicians into our venue for the first time.

Outcomes and community feedback:

Young musicians brought into venue for the first time, new partnership with local music collective, positive press coverage.

Challenges:

Staff sickness meant we had few staff on the day to help out.



East Kilbride Community Trust

K-Woodlands Halloween

Event at a glance:

Location: South Lanarkshire

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 30

Number of Attendees: 560

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

Our event went amazingly! The grant from CLS allowed us to buy extra lighting as last years event was pretty dark and it meant animatronics weren't seen as well. Our hope is that any money raised from the event goes towards getting us a defibrillator for our woodlands and first aid training for all our staff.

Outcomes and community feedback:

All rave reviews of everyone having an amazing night, not a single complaint!

Challenges:

We faced challenges on the day as the weather wasn't in our favour.



Easter Breich Wood Community Group

Fungi Foray and Art Workshop

Event at a glance:

Location: West Lothian

Date: 26 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 7

Number of Attendees: 15

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

Running an event as part of a wider festival definitely added to the day - and helped with the organisation. The event attracted new people, from further afield than our usual events and the combination of fungi foray and art was a fun way to get people really looking at the woodland. Unfortunately the weather was poor, so we had a lot of 'no-shows', but despite that people really enjoyed the day and made some great art.

Outcomes and community feedback:

New people finding out about the woodland, and we're hoping to run both events again next year - but probably as separate events.

Challenges:

Running it in late autumn meant people got quite cold - especially for the art. Would run again but at different time of year. Organising it as a free event on Eventbrite meant we were really uncertain about how many would attend. which made it difficult to plan things like car parking.



Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company

Kirkhope Mill Open Day

Event at a glance:

Location: Scottish Borders

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 7

Number of Attendees: 100

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We held an open studio day at our business units called Kirkhope Mill to showcase the building and also the art and craft work of our tenants. We also used an empty space to hold an art exhibition with 2 local artists and provided tea/coffee and cake in the central meeting area. We had a fantastic response from both the local community and also interested people from further afield who had read about it in the Southern Reporter. Over 100 people came through the door during the 5 hours so there was quite a buzz in the building. There were lots of compliments on the building itself as many local people had watched it develop over the period but had not been inside. It was also a great social occasion as people met up with old friends and made new ones. There was a lot of chat over the coffee and cakes.



Outcomes and community feedback:

The numbers attending surprised and delighted us and made it a very social event. These events pull a community together and there are not that many locally that bring people in from all parts of the valleys and beyond.

Challenges:

Anticipating the numbers for catering and also bringing in tables and chairs from two different village halls as well as gathering up enough easels.

Friends of Glenan Wood

The Big Biochar BBQ

Event at a glance:

Location: Argyll and Bute

Date: 19 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 8

Number of Attendees: 50

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

The land festival has become a key part of our calendar year and members of our community look forward to coming and celebrating. The inter-generational contact around food, fire and the gratitude for the place itself was evident and meaningful. The linked video goes some way to capturing the spirit of events at our community woodland, and the sense of place and meaning that is engendered.

Outcomes and community feedback:

I have received lots of thanks and appreciation plus new people attending gatherings since the event.

Challenges:

We are still without any permanent covered space, so setting up for a large gathering with canvas in poor weather can be tricky for the challenge of presenting a warm hearth!

[Watch Video](#)

Friends of the Broadway Prestwick

The Broadway Oral History Experience

Event at a glance:

Location: South Ayrshire

Date: 1 & 2 November 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 20

Number of Attendees: 125

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We chose to take part in the festival to deliver a soft launch of our oral history project, welcome our community back into the Broadway for the first time in 2025, and kickstart a series of major announcements on the project's future.

The success of the event could be measured in the invaluable memories captured from members of our community, and the meaningful connections to the Broadway that were further nurtured and blossomed. The feedback from those that visited was overwhelmingly positive and our participation in the Community Land Festival has acted as a springboard for additional events and growth in 2025.



Outcomes and community feedback:

Positive feedback from the community in-person at the event and afterwards, and subsequent growth of the project through membership increases and increased awareness within our community.

Challenges:

Support for marketing the event digitally outwith our internal networks and channels.

Gallan Head Community Trust

Gallan Head Get Together

Event at a glance:

Location: Na h-Eileanan Siar

Date: 22 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 8

Number of Attendees: 45

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

It was wonderful to be part of Community Land Scotlands Festival celebration enabling us to hold an Open Day at Gallan Beag our community hub. The event was very well attended with everyone enjoying homemade fayre, Banter and feedback of the Trust's work over the last 12 months.

The Event was a great success with very positive feedback and acknowledgement of Community Land Scotland and of the Trust's work particularly with use of the Gallan Beag Hub which manages to invite and welcome so many to a small space that utilises every spare inch. A great success with thanks.

Outcomes and community feedback:

All who attended were pleased that they came along and caught up with the Trusts activities and were wholly supportive of it.



Greener Kirkcaldy

Film Screening - Together we grow

Event at a glance:

Location: Fife

Date: 28 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 1

Number of Attendees: 19

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We were supported by Community Land Scotland to purchase our community building. We want to keep that connection going and be part of the community ownership community. This year we decided to show a film about Common Unity, a community organisation based in New Zealand. The 40 minute documentary showcased their organisation which did similar work to Greener Kirkcaldy.

The film showing led to lots of inspiring discussion afterwards about what we could learn from them and what people would like to see us do in the community and in our building. People found the film inspiring and enjoyed the sense of community communicated throughout the film.

The festival encourages us to put on more events that celebrate community that can involve our residential neighbours and the wider community.



Outcomes and community feedback:

We are yet to send out our survey but everyone was inspired and motivated and gave us great ideas about what we can do in our community and how we can communicate it.

Challenges:

Timescale - We started organising and promoting our event much later than we would have liked.

Inchinnan Development Trust

Celebrating Inchinnan Community Land achievements

Event at a glance:

Location: Renfrewshire

Date: 18 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 20

Number of Attendees: 400

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

2025 marked our third year participating in the Community Land Ownership Festival, and what a fantastic celebration it was! Our goal was to create a fun, welcoming, and informative event for everyone - both our local community and friends from further afield. We reached out to even more community groups, local businesses, and elected members this year, and made sure to spread the word with leaflets, posters, a huge banner, and plenty of social media buzz. Even though it was school holiday time and many were away, nearly 400 people joined us to celebrate Inchinnan's community land achievements!

The day was packed with activities: free soup, inflatables, face painting, and lots of local information. Our place plan team was on hand, gathering valuable feedback. There were craft stalls, gifts, holistic offerings, a friendly visit from the fire brigade, and a tuck shop run by the village store. We were also treated to cultural music from Fèis Phàislig. Special thanks to the provost and the leader of the local authority for attending and showing their support.

Outcomes and community feedback:

The feedback has been wonderful! Of course, there are always a few who missed out and said they didn't know it was happening - despite all our efforts. We'll keep working to make sure everyone feels included next time.

The event is getting bigger and better each year. We had a sensory room this year which was well received and needed for some. The free vegan soup went down a storm as well as all the free stuff for the little people. The LPP team had a big map of Inchinnan which was enjoyed by many, mostly trying to find their own houses.

Challenges:

The weather and pulling it all together on the day...

Langholm Initiative

Tarras Valley Ceilidh

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 24 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 10

Number of Attendees: 50

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

To celebrate the community ownership of the land and properties. A mixture of volunteers, supporters and donors and members of the community attended to help celebrate the land. We had a band a buffet and some poetry readings relevant to the land and the nature which relayed how we all have a connection to the land and it's history. Everyone enjoyed and gave great feedback asking "When were we having the next one." :)

Outcomes and community feedback:

People enjoyed the evening and as mentioned kept asking when is the next one.

Challenges:

Seeking the right venue, which in the end I think we achieved successfully.



Maud Village Trust

Pumpkin Display in Maud Village Community Gardens

Event at a glance:

Location: Aberdeenshire

Date: 21 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 6

Number of Attendees: 100

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

It was the first time of being invited to attend but we jumped at the chance as community engagement is what MVT is all about. We were delighted to receive a bursary too which helped greatly as we are a charity with limited resources.

The fact that 45 registered (individuals, families & community groups) ahead of the event and over 100 people came out in the rain to visit the display was a real bonus and made all the organisation well worth the effort. So much effort and creativity had gone into the pumpkins and no two were the same. Just brilliant!

So many people said how enjoyable the event was and that the buzz of the event showed how much community spirit there was in our small rural villages. An employee of Aberdeenshire Council Community Mental Health Team said he was heartened to see so many generations of family coming out together to celebrate the event. A few said it was great that it was held during the school holidays as it gave the children something different to take part in.



Outcomes and community feedback:

Nothing but positive feedback and locals would love it to be an annual event.

Challenges:

Time and Money. My role is only possible with funding and without grants from Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund and other sources, it isn't sustainable. Our December 2024 bid in round 4 was unsuccessful and it's only with reducing my weekly hours that MVT have managed to sustain the post of Community Mental Health Project Officer. Events like this take a huge amount of man hours to plan and execute.

Newmains Community Trust

Halloween Celebration

Event at a glance:

Location: North Lanarkshire

Date: 22 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 12

Number of Attendees: 40

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

We hosted a Halloween-themed Afternoon Tea at Newmains Community Trust as part of the Community Land Festival 2025 to bring families together in a fun and affordable way. The event featured spooky decorations, themed treats, and a Halloween themed quiz. A few of the attendees even arrived in costume which was brilliant to see the efforts they had gone to. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many asking for us to do it again next year. We chose to take part in the Festival to celebrate community connection, we know that our community love to come together for events like this as we have organised them for Easter, Christmas events.

Outcomes and community feedback:

We were able to offer afternoon tea for only £5 per person so the main outcome was that we could offer a low cost alternative for our community. Fully positive feedback from all the attendees, who loved the decorations and also the home baked and decorated treats we made as part of the afternoon tea. We also had feedback requesting that we do another Halloween event next year.

Challenges:

All the sandwiches and cakes were made in our community café whilst running a full service, so the biggest challenge was ensuring that this was catered for without having an adverse effect on the café activities.

Nith Valley Leaf Trust

Closeburn Community Land Halloween Weekend

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 10

Number of Attendees: 45

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We rejoice as a community owning land and buildings that are precious to our community, so we love coming together, especially for the children and their generation, to celebrate the fact that the community can say what they want to do with and on their 'patch'. Thus, the CLS event each year is something we treasure.

Despite the awful weather we managed to run a fun & games event indoors that the kids really loved. This attracted over 45 folk. We will do another event before next year than gets folk out onto our community field with a camp out and BBQ once the weather improves.

Outcomes and community feedback:

We have pictures and lots of verbal complements.

Challenges:

Weather - is October the best time?



Pairc Trust

Pairc Trust Signage Celebration

Event at a glance:

Location: Na h-Eileanan Siar

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 9

Number of Attendees: 40

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We held a ribbon-cutting and community lunch to celebrate the installation of our new “Welcome to Pairc” signage. The event brought together our community and everyone was delighted to have Pairc's oldest crofter at 102 years old to cut the ribbon and be involved in the celebration. Received feedback that it was very well organised and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the local Pairc venison.

Outcomes and community feedback:

We have received warm and enthusiastic feedback following the “Welcome to Pairc” signage event. Many commented on how great the day was, with some wanting to be able to purchase the Pairc venison locally.



Pitlochry Town Hall

Family Fancy Dress Halloween Event

Event at a glance:

Location: Perth and Kinross

Date: 31 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 6

Number of Attendees: 80

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We hosted a free drop-in haunted hall guising event for all the family, including dogs, with decorations, lighting and various challenges for kids to do and swap spiders they earned for treats. This event helps us share the message that the town hall is for everyone in the community, and visitors, of all ages, and brought new people through the door. Great feedback that parents could come together in a warm, dry, safe place on a dark, wet Halloween for fun, and the kids loved it!

We appreciated the funding for our fringe event as it is a huge building and takes a lot to decorate for Halloween. Thanks you.



Outcomes and community feedback:

Great feedback, on the night one girl said it was the best night ever. We didn't canvas for donations but parents were keen to give something and we collected over £100. It also created interest and support for future events.

Challenges:

Not knowing how many would come without selling tickets, but heard from school mum there was a buzz about it.

Port Bannatyne Development Trust

Music Week at the Anchor Tavern

Event at a glance:

Location: Argyll and Bute

Date: 17 - 23 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 11

Number of Attendees: 50

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

About the event:

Port Bannatyne Development Trust hosted a week of live music at the community-owned Anchor Tavern. The community enjoyed performances from local musicians, open mic and jam sessions, as well as some familiar visiting acts, all in a welcoming venue serving a wide selection of drinks—alcoholic and non-alcoholic, teas, coffees, soft drinks—and tasty snacks.



Staffin Community Trust

Sùil nam Brà - Opening of the new Memorial to the Crofters of Staffin

Event at a glance:

Location: Highland

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 20

Number of Attendees: 180

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

Staffin Community Trust – Urras An Taobh Sear has been a member of CLS since 2014, so we were delighted to take part in the Festival, as our missions are truly ‘air an aon ràmh’. On Saturday 25th October 2025, we ran three events that celebrated our place, our history, and our language.

We began with the opening of Sùil nam Brà, our Memorial to the Crofters and Cottars of Staffin, at Creag an Fhèilidh – The Kilt Rock. A local piper played, and our founder, Donald MacDonald, welcomed everyone in Gaelic and English before inviting a great-granddaughter of Tormod Choinnich to cut the ‘ribbon of fire’.

Our second event took place at the Columba 1400 Centre with a community lunch and a strong Gaelic cultural programme. This included a Gaelic duet by Mod Gold Medallists Annie Catriona MacDonald and Ruairidh Gray, personal reflections on crofting life, and contributions exploring Strì an Fhearainn, local history, and the significance of the dùdadh mhòr horn.



We finished the day with a Community Cèilidh and Dance, featuring Gaelic singing from Annie, Ruairidh, and local schoolchildren, along with performances from a young piper and dancer. With Ruairidh as our fear an taighe, the evening brought music, dancing, a strùpag, and a wonderful turnout from people who don’t always attend community events.

One of the real highlights was meeting Anne Fraser (widow of crofting hero Simon Fraser) and her sister, Donna Barden. They were warm, engaged, and completely in the spirit of the day from the moment they arrived. Iain Craig from CLS was a joy to work with, and he filmed the event – something we’re very much looking forward to watching back. We were also lucky to have Janet MacLeod from Staffin as our photographer, giving us a lovely record of the day.

Outcomes and community feedback:

A very positive reaction to the Memorial itself, and the three events to commemorate its opening.

Challenges:

Being extremely busy with caring duties for elderly members of the family.

Strathfillan Community Development Trust

Strathfillan, lets celebrate our community land journey!

Event at a glance:

Location: Stirling

Date: 18 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 3

Number of Attendees: 18

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

We chose to take part in the Community Land Festival as we felt that as a community, we haven't taken much time to reflect on what we've already achieved. Being part of the Community Land Festival gave us an opportunity to organise a focused event as we celebrated another community owned achievement, with generous support from CLS.

For us, taking a moment to consider our part in the wider community land network was very worthwhile. On a development officer level, it was really helpful to use the Community Land Festival umbrella to engage in meaningful consultation work, which can often be very difficult. Feedback from participants has been entirely positive, and I think it has definitely reignited some further consideration of community owned land in Strathfillan.

Outcomes and community feedback:

We haven't received any specific feedback from participants. However we have had many positive comments on our event, and I think in general it will have sparked some further consideration for our community owned assets in Strathfillan.

The event also provided some very valuable feedback through consultation on various topics and issues discussed throughout the day. SCDT will now use this feedback as a solid evidence base in further pursuing land management agreements and decisions.

Challenges:

Biggest challenge, as always, was trying to promote and drive engagement with the event. In the end, we had a successful turnout, however we didn't reach an audience beyond those who regularly engage in local community based events.

The Inverclyde Shed

Meet, Make, Grow + Share

Event at a glance:

Location: Inverclyde

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 15

Number of Attendees: 120

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We ran five simultaneous community garden open days from Port Glasgow, Greenock East, Greenock West and Gourock. Each space hosted a range of activities from compost making & gabion bench making workshops, recycled roof slate signwriting, our own honey sampling, apiary visits, ukulele band, vegetable sales & give aways, home made soups, home made breads and garden tours with a friendly cuppa in hand. We were keen to celebrate community growing on a range of sites in different contexts from dilapidated industrial estate, urban church grounds to historic walled garden. Feedback has been fantastic both from visitors and those who saw the events online.

Outcomes and community feedback:

Very positive experience for all ages.



Challenges:

Logistics of doing it across five sites.

The Pyramid

Hallowe'en at The Pyramid

Event at a glance:

Location: Glasgow City

Date: 31 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 20

Number of Attendees: 620

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We were able to host a very successful event which engaged many members of our community, particularly children and families. It's important for us to bring people together to celebrate in their building and have fun. We had really good feedback at the event, everyone enjoyed it!

Outcomes and community feedback:

A fun event, safe for all ages, accessible and no one missed out due to cost

Challenges:

We're a small team, so we're always stretched, but no major issues.



Upper Eskdale Development Group

A Night of Celebration!

Event at a glance:

Location: Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 12

Number of Attendees:: 35

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We took part because it's so important to celebrate that the community owns the Hub – it's an amazing resource that really deserves recognition. We had displays of old school photos and records, films made about the Hub (including from our oral history projects and visitors), and even brought down the old school bible and bell. That night, we had a few ghostly goings-on with things switching on by themselves, so we've safely tucked those back in the cupboard!

We were delighted by the number of new people who came – six newcomers, all keen to support the Hub. It was a great way for them to meet everyone and learn more about what we do.

The evening included a curry, a quiz, and karaoke. The quiz was brilliant, with four general knowledge rounds and one on the Hub itself, highlighting our classes, electricity costs, and village history. Karaoke got a few of us up singing and laughing together. The feedback was so positive that we're now discussing a monthly community get-together with quizzes, karaoke, and board games.



It was also a chance to show how much the Hub benefits the community, while explaining that your funding makes it possible. With more volunteers helping with food and activities, we could make these events happen regularly – proving just how valuable the Hub is to everyone.

Outcomes and community feedback:

I was told that they were blown away with how great the night was and what lovely community and building we had. That they were new and were keen to get involved and support us if they could. One person had a hangover, one person had a sore throat from singing... one person who has lived in the valley for 10 or more years said it was the first thing they had come to, and they made new friends and have been back since. So it has been really good feedback. they just want more. What we need to get is help to keep the hub open... we need £30,000 core costs to keep us afloat... and so we will keep on looking.

Challenges:

We had a right fuff with getting the right food. We had started out wanting outside caterers to come in, but they were going to cost us £35 a head. So that was a no. So we used our staff, but that meant they did not get involved in the social part which was a shame. It was the same night as fireworks locally so we lost a few folk to that. People couldn't understand that Community Land Festival was about us, as we don't own 'land'.. but we explained.

Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh

Walk and Talk at Doune Carloway Broch

Event at a glance:

Location: Na h-Eileanan Siar

Date: 18 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 3

Number of Attendees: 14

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: No

What they said:

2025 marks 10 years since Carloway Estate was purchased by the community. As part of our year of celebrations we were keen to take part in Community Land Festival. The event involved a "walk and talk" at the Carloway Broch. Doune native Annella MacArthur told us about the fascinating history of the village of Doune, the people and the changes over time. It was very enjoyable afternoon, finished off with a cup of tea in the visitor centre, owned by Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh.

Outcomes and community feedback:

People thoroughly enjoyed the event and appreciate the opportunity to share stories and memories of Doune and other villages in the area.



Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

Trail Taster Port of Ness to Eoropie

Event at a glance:

Location: Na h-Eileanan Siar

Date: 25 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 4

Number of Attendees: 17

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We chose to run a taster of a coastal walking trail we are developing. We had a walk guide for the duration of the walk, a bird expert and whale and dolphin expert at 2 points to give information and answer questions walks may have had. We finished the walk with soup, bread and a cuppa at a local social club.

We try to take part in the festival as often as possible where staff time allows. With this event being a taster of the walking route we are currently developing it was great to get reactions from locals and those from further away, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many of the walkers asked if we would run more walks as they enjoyed this one so much. A short feedback form has been sent out to all who booked on.



WATIF

Halloween at Loanhead Farm

Event at a glance:

Location: South Lanarkshire

Date: 17 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 15

Number of Attendees: 60

First-time participant? No

Bursary support received: Yes



What they said:

We had a fabulous night for our pumpkin patch and spooky walk, including pumpkin carving and playing in the barn. We had a full house of kids and adults. This event was a massive team effort from the staff and volunteers. People made gravestones and crosses, served amazing hotdogs and hot chocolate, we had children and adult 'scarers' and some people even made a full coffin! The feedback has been great and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Outcomes and community feedback:

No negative feedback received, only positive and giving thanks/compliments on a great event.

Wester Loch Ewe Trust

From Roots to Renewal

Event at a glance:

Location: Highland

Date: 18 October 2025

Number of Staff & Volunteers: 9

Number of Attendees: 40

First-time participant? Yes

Bursary support received: Yes

What they said:

We chose to take part in the Festival, of which WLET was unaware before this year, because we thought it an amazing way to let the wider public become aware of what has been made possible all over Scotland due to The Scottish Land Fund.

It was a successful and meaningful day as we had so many people who hadn't previously been aware of our project - The Old School Inverasdale - visit, look over the building and grounds to see what it is like today and see the changes that have taken place over the years since WLET took it into community ownership with the support of the Scottish Land Fund. Our illustrated boards show clearly what has been achieved by a very small, very remote and rural community to preserve a much-loved building, its history and its peoples' stories both school-based and crofting from which 3 distinct local places fed into the school.

We found out that so many people were unaware of Kay Matheson who attended the school as a pupil and later as a peripetetic teacher of Gaelic and crafts - and many of us here remember her well!



It was truly meaningful to us to be able to host this afternoon and be able to chat with so many interested people. It was meaningful and overwhelming to be able to record a short video explaining The Old School Inverasdale, its history and its importance to this area.

We were thrilled at the number who attended and asked very relevant questions about the processes gone through, the difficulties encountered along the way and the achievements so far. It was also amazing to have a member of the CLS attend and show such interest in the project.

Outcomes and community feedback:

Participants who have never visited before have undertaken to support us when they are in our area and people in the further locality will visit more often.

Challenges:

The dates into which it had to be fitted as half of the available time was during the local school autumn break.

Successes and Opportunities

What we learned

The 2025 Community Land Festival offered a rich tapestry of events across Scotland, and feedback from participating groups provides valuable insight into what worked well — and where there are opportunities to grow in the future. These learning points will be valuable for festival organisers planning future editions, and for communities considering how they might participate in the years ahead.

What Worked Well

- **Hands-on, participatory activities:** Craft workshops, pumpkin carving, treasure hunts, woodland lantern-making, and guided walks engaged attendees of all ages.
- **Intergenerational engagement:** Events brought together children and adults, strengthening community connections and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **Cultural and heritage experiences:** Storytelling, local history tours, films, and music performances enriched events and offered meaningful opportunities to celebrate local identity.
- **Practical support from Community Land Scotland:** Bursaries, printed posters and flyers, press release templates, PR guidance, and social media promotion were highly valued, helping groups deliver successful events.
- **Flexibility and adaptability:** Groups adapted to weather, timing, or logistical challenges, ensuring their events remained successful and enjoyable.
- **Festival umbrella effect:** Being part of a national initiative provided visibility, legitimacy, and motivation for groups to host their events.
- **Annual rituals:** For some communities, the Festival has become a key part of their local calendar — for example, Annan Harbour and Culbokie now host pumpkin and Halloween celebrations every year.

Opportunities for the Future

- **Continued support through the Festival and bursaries:** For many groups, there are no alternative funding streams that can cover the costs of hosting a Community Land Festival event. Without the CLF and the small bursaries provided, several events simply would not have taken place.
- **Guidance for larger or multi-site events:** Additional planning support and resources would help groups expand their reach.
- **Timing considerations:** While a few groups suggested exploring alternative times of year, the autumn/Halloween slot is valued by many as it provides an easy and natural focus for seasonal celebrations. Balancing flexibility with the benefits of the current timing will be important.
- **Audience growth:** Further promotion and outreach could help groups attract people beyond their regular community base.
- **Collaboration and partnerships:** Opportunities to share expertise, volunteers, and resources across groups could enhance the quality and reach of events.
- **Showcasing creative projects:** Many groups wanted to highlight skills, arts, crafts, and community achievements more prominently.

FEARANN|COMMUNITY
COIMHEARSNACHD|LAND
NA H-ALBA|SCOTLAND

Scotland SC041864 Company Number 385572.

Registered address: c/o Ainsley, Smith & Co | 21 Argyll Square | Oban | PA34 4AT