



# Strathleven Foundation

Inspiring change



## Helping Hand Fund Summary

# Helping Hand Fund Now Closed

Strathleven Foundation Trustees brought our Helping Hand Fund to a close after a year of giving to small charities and community groups in Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven.

We have visited a number of recipients and seen first hand how our funding has helped our local communities support green spaces, social interaction, youth services and wellbeing to name but a few.

Over the coming year, Strathleven Foundation will focus on large grant giving through our Inspiring Change Fund - we'll keep you updated.

In the meantime, let's see how we made a difference!

## Snapshot

58

### Number of Applications

Between June 2024 and April 2025 Strathleven Foundation received almost 100 expressions of interest about our Helping Hand Fund with 58 formal applications completed for Trustee consideration.

35

### Successful Applications

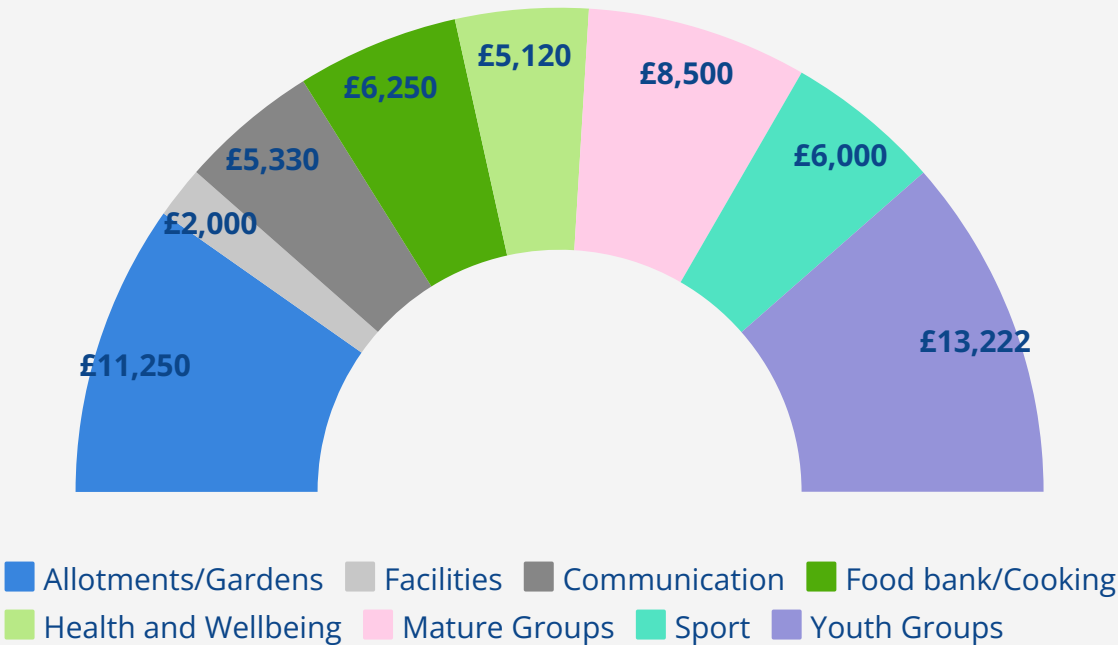
60% of applications to the fund were successful. Our funding helped communities throughout our area of benefit - many of whom we were able to visit and see the difference made.

£57,672

### Total Amount Awarded

The maximum Helping Hand award was £2,000 and over half of successful applications received this full amount.

## Helping Hand Grant Amount by Category



## Helping Hand Recipients

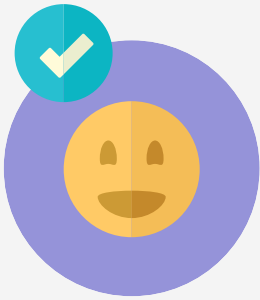
- 1777 Dumbarton Air Cadets
- Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group
- Bellsmyre Community Gardens
- Ben View Resource Centre
- Bonhill Veterans Bowling Club
- Bridge Court Social Club
- Castlegreen Allotments Association
- CATRA
- Daniel's Wish
- Dillichip Community Garden & Allotments
- Dumbarton and District Pipe Band
- Friends of Levensgrove Park



- LevenVale Older Peoples Welfare Association
- Lomond and Clyde Care & Repair
- Lomond Community Gardens & Allotments Association
- Lomond Community Pantry
- Lomond Radio
- Mentor Scotland
- Milton Village Community Group
- Renton Veterans Bowling Club
- Rock Community Church
- Rocky Road Support Group

- Singergie
- The Dumbarton Castle Society
- Tulloch
- Vale of Leven Football Club
- West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare
- West Dunbartonshire Gymnastics Club
- Y sort it
- Dumbarton Cine, Video and Digital Club
- Haldane Tenants and Residents Association
- The Lennox Heritage Society
- Risk Street Tenants and Residents Association
- St Michael's Primary School
- Dumbarton Tennis Club

# Community Stories



Some of our recent recipients wanted to share how our funding has helped them to sustain and grow services for people in their local communities.

Thanks to all our local charities and constituted community groups in Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven for making a difference - here are some of their pictures and stories.



**Dillichip Community Gardens** received a Helping Hand Grant toward the cost of a pergola shelter and fruit trees.

Trustee Chair Bruce Malcolm visited the allotments to see the progress being made and joined in with the tree planting alongside Iain McPhie and other Dillichip Community gardeners.

**Lomond Community Pantry**, was established in October 2024, in the old BB Hut in Jamestown to address food poverty in the area, a joint initiative between Lomond Parish Church and Haldane Tenants and Residents Association.

Mary Sweetland from the Group said:

"We provide groceries to anyone in need who lives in G83 postcode - each week they can buy 10 items for £4, without having a referral from a care agency. We are open on Thursdays 1pm-7pm and Friday 10am - 4pm.

The Helping Hand Award of £1000, will go towards the running costs of the Pantry. We receive food donations from local churches and community organisations, and are supported by West Dunbarton Council.

We raise additional funds from local events and grant awarding bodies tackling food poverty. We have around 20 volunteers who help staff the Pantry and love to have the senior pupils from Balloch Primary over once a month to help with stocking the shelves."

**Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group**, applied for a Helping Hand Grant to mount a display within a small lobby area in Balloch Castle.

They wanted to give an overview of what the Group is aiming to achieve for the Park.

Sally Page - Chair of the Group told us:

"We have partners who will give us text and artwork including CHAS, with whom the Group are undertaking a banner project in the Park, SCENE (Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment) who have a wealth of knowledge of the Loch and surrounding area, LLAIA (Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association) who work across the Loch Lomond catchment, and the Balloch Park App.

This will be an informative display and we are hopeful that the kiosk within the same area will be operational soon, to the benefit of all Park users."

An Artist impression of the lobby at Balloch Castle



Sally continued:

"Our project artist has already completed the flags for the center of Balloch. We are planning to have a certain continuity thread with all our projects.

In the Lobby area of the Castle we will reproduce some of the art work done by the children at CHAS into large boards, explaining the purpose of CHAS and how important the Park is to them."

## Phase 1 flags designed with Robin House Childrens Hospice



"We are engaged with Scottish Center of Ecology and the Natural Environment, part of Glasgow University, who are producing content for a couple of boards.

This will be about the ecology of the Loch, the Powan and other fish in the loch and the life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon.

Fraser MacLaurin who has written an App for Balloch Park will give us some content about the Park.

We also have a history of the Park written by the Vale of Leven Historical Society that we will (after agreement with them) use for another board."



### Dumbarton Tennis Club

#### Club President Celia McKenna said:

"We're absolutely delighted to have received a grant from the Helping Hand Fund and are very grateful to the Strathleven Foundation for their generous support.

This funding will enable us to take the next step in making tennis more accessible to everyone in our community, by installing a smart gate at the club. The new system will allow for easy and affordable, pay-as-you-go access through remote booking and secure PIN code entry — opening up our facilities to even more people, every day.

Over the past 18 months, Dumbarton Tennis Club has worked hard to raise funds for major improvements — including installing floodlighting, replacing all three courts with modern all-weather surfaces, and making the venue fully accessible for people with disabilities. This latest development builds on that progress and helps us grow the game locally whilst realising our vision of an open, inclusive, and welcoming community sports hub."

Many of the groups we have funded come together to host and participate in local events.

**The Lennox Heritage Society, Dumbarton Cine, Video and Digital Club** and **The Dumbarton Castle Society** were all involved with the recent History Schools project at the Concord Leisure Centre.

We were invited along and saw first hand how much fun the primary and secondary school children in the area enjoyed learning about our local history and culture.

Jim Crosthwaite from Dumbarton Cine, Video and Digital Club said:

"The new camera that you bought for the 'Cine' Club was put to use on the DCS's Schools event. Here is a picture of two of the members having a break between filming - Robert Kyle and Jim Biddulph who is the archivist for the Maid of the Loch.



We all help each other out on community events, so your support is very much appreciated, as helping one has a knock on effect helping other groups support each other."



## Strathleven Foundation

The Strathleven Foundation  
Strathleven House  
Vale of Leven Industrial Estate  
Dumbarton  
G82 3PD

<https://strathlevenfoundation.org.uk>

[Cathrine.hope@strathlevenfoundation.org.uk](mailto:Cathrine.hope@strathlevenfoundation.org.uk)