

# 10 Years of Carraig Ghael Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

## The Avant Gardeners



Received £11,071 for provision of polytunnel, topsoil and mobile chipper and shredder.

Chrissie Sugden, member of The Avant Gardeners said:

“Carraig Ghael Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has made an enormous difference to the Community Garden in Dalavich right from the start. The fund enabled us to buy the land for the garden that we had previously rented, paid for a tool shed, funded trees for a small orchard and recently enabled us to buy a polytunnel plus topsoil to extend the growing season which encouraged more members to join us. As well as the practical difference of having somewhere to grow fresh food and herbs, I have heard people say how much they enjoy having a space within walking distance of the village that is also a separate and beautiful little world to escape to for 'time out'. We are very grateful to GreenPower for all their help and support.”

## Taynuilt Golf Club



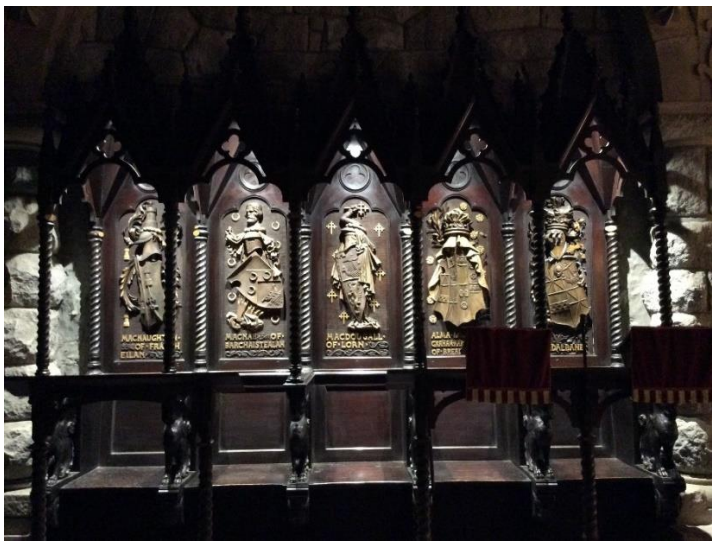
Received £8,250 towards a greens mower and sprayer and also a tipping trailer.

Marlyn Milne, Secretary for Taynuilt Golf Club said:

“The financial support from the Carraig Gheal Community Benefit Fund has massively contributed to the viability of the Club. It is a small 9 hole course which is run by volunteers with only one part time employee and we would not be in such a strong position in terms of the quality of the course without the grant funding.

The grants we have received, has enabled the Club to improve the quality of our essential equipment and consequently enhance the standard of the course. In the ten years since Carraig Gheal became operational we have seen an increase in the number of members and visitors and this is largely down to the quality of the course. The golf course contributes to the sustainability of the community and provides a quality leisure facility for locals and visitors to the area. The Committee and all the members really appreciate the support provided by Carraig Gheal.”

## Friends of St Conan’s Kirk



*Clan Stalls*



*Chapel Gates Transformation (before and after)*

Awarded £28,720 towards projects including restoration of the Clan stalls, restoration of the library, restoration of the chapel gates and provision of two disabled toilets.

Peter Hennessy, Chair of Friends of St Conan's Kirk said:

“Over the last ten years we have developed excellent relationships with the staff managing the fund and value highly this source. The accessibility of Jennie and her predecessor to answer questions, guide and offer clarification and support has been first class. Projects supported have included disability provision, public meeting spaces, restoration of listed elements of the grade A elements in the building and essential support creating group meeting facilities to facilitate community accessibility and interest groups. Currently, the fund is supporting new disabled toilet provision in the context of a substantial grant from NHLF. We look forward to working with the fund as an important local partner in building match funding for our community engagement programme. The importance of local funders in the wider funding context cannot be overstated.”

## Oban and Lorn Angling Club



Awarded £425.92 for replacement of four pairs of oars.

Allan Coutts, committee member of Oban and Lorn Angling Club, said:

“Congratulations on your 10 year anniversary. Oban and Lorn Angling Club were awarded £425 to replace broken oars in 2018. The oars were purchased locally and have been used to replace our ancient worn and broken oars whenever necessary. These are essential items for the club and without the grant we would have had to divert money from boat repairs or leases on lochs, either of which would have had a detrimental effect on our sport. The club has several members and permit sellers within the CGWFBCF area and the new oars with the brass plates identifying our benefactor have been widely appreciated. The grant application process was fairly complex but Jennie Cowley was very helpful and always available to help with any aspect of the application and this made the process quite easy.”



## North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme (NAVCS)



Awarded £9,717 towards costs of maintaining essential rural transport service for locals who are unable to use public transport to access essential services and social events.

Christine Wills, Management Committee Chair of NAVCS said:

“As a small local charity providing community transport we depend on funding from the local council, passengers and small local donors, and larger donors like GreenPower’s Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. It is so encouraging for us to deal with the GreenPower Support Officer, and to feel that both she and the Carraig Gheal Steering Group understand what we do. The funding we have received has been a key factor in our financial security, enabling us to maintain a service for vulnerable people in our scattered rural communities.

Here are some comments from our recent passenger questionnaire:

*“The service is part of our lives, we simply would not function properly without it. Marvellous.”*

*“Without the car scheme I would have found it very difficult to get my covid jab and other medical appointments.”*

*“We are fortunate in this area to receive great service without fuss or hassle. Long may it continue!”*

*“What a lifeline when you are incapacitated. It has meant so much to me to be able to use it, so very thankful for all the volunteers – THANK YOU!”*

## Taynuilt Village Hall



Awarded £6,185.88 towards upgrade of heating system and resurfacing of hall floor and stage.

Melanie Currie, Treasurer of Taynuilt Village Hall said:

“On behalf of Taynuilt Village Hall, I can say that we have benefitted from grants from Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund to improve the heating in the hall and upgrade the floor. Without such grants, the work would still have been possible but involved a lengthy process of fundraising on top of the income required to run the hall on a daily basis. Although we have not applied for a grant for several years now, it's good to know that the option is there for future projects. The application process was simple but lengthy. I understand that you need a lot of specific information for fair and efficient administration of grants but it might put some volunteers off. Having said that, any help required was freely available during the application process. We have had a lot of compliments about the upkeep of the floor and it was worth it to keep the hall open for all the people who use it. We hope to apply for further funding in the future as the maintenance of a traditional old building is never-ending.”

## Oxygen Oban



Awarded £2,250 from end of year micro grant donations towards an oxygen generator unit.

David Davidson, Chair of Oxygen Oban said:

“We at Oxygen Oban Ltd are delighted to have received donations from Carraig Ghael Wind Farm and these have been put towards funding for our Oxygen Generator Unit which we hope to have installed and operational by end of November 2023. We receive no local or national government funding and rely entirely on fundraising, donations and grants to enable us to provide Hyperbaric Oxygen to people suffering from neurological conditions, so your donations make all the difference to us. We wish Carraig Gheal Wind Farm all the best for the next ten years.”

## Kilchrenan Art Group

Awarded £2,036 towards artists workshops and art materials.

### Pam Cowley, member of the Kilchrenan Art Group said:

“The Kilchrenan Art Group has enjoyed the teaching and guidance of talented professional Artists, running courses on an annual basis. This opportunity could only be possible with the funding provided by the Carraig Gheal Community Fund. Their input stimulates our creativity, enthusiasm and develops our skills as artists. The funding has also allowed us to purchase equipment that we would not all be able to afford. With the support of the fund, the Art group is vibrant and productive, holding an annual exhibition at the Robin's Nest Tea Rooms in Taynuilt.”

## Bridge of Orchy Village Hall Trust



*Before*



*After*

Awarded £20,372.00 towards upgrade to renovation of the village hall.

### John Kerr, Trustee of Bridge of Orchy Village Hall Trust, said:

“In 2013 the Bridge of Orchy community were looking for space to build a coastal rowing skiff. The closed and abandoned Village Hall seemed like the answer. As the idea evolved it became clear that what the residents wanted was a hall, and not a rowing skiff!

We met with an Architect and a contractor, and worked out that we could make a difference with around £200,000, as we had about £200 in the bank we knew it would be a struggle! After talking to various contractors and suppliers, and of course, suffering several disappointments, we won a Scottish Government grant worth about £100,000 towards building costs. A local benefactor chipped in some more and we had the confidence to start work.

The project was broken down into aspirational objectives and this system worked well, particularly with the help of our contractor. Raising money was a constant task with many ups and downs. But we were so lucky to find Carraig Gheal Community Benefit Fund and GreenPower who helped the Village Hall achieve many of its objectives. Communication with GreenPower was always open, supportive and constructive. During grant applications the process has always been kept simple and fair, with a degree of practical understanding of the difficulties faced by smaller organisations, often under resourced. The consideration and adjudication of applications has always been transparent and logical.

There can be no doubt that without the substantial help from GreenPower we would not have achieved our objectives. But now we can enjoy a safe, warm, sustainable public place, much enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.”

## Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG)



*Before*



*After*

Awarded £63,583.60 towards upgrading electrics in community centre, play park in Dalavich for toddlers, a boat shed, showers and toilets within Dalavich Community Centre, replacement doors for the Community Centre, replacement windows and exterior painting of the centre.

### Libby Foy-Lowrey, Director, FOB The Board, Dalavich Improvement Group said:

“Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG) wishes to congratulate GreenPower on 10 years of the successful operation of Carraig Gheal Wind Farm. We also send a huge thank you for the years of support received from the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

As recipients of the fund, the benefits to DIG and our community have been numerous. We have been able to achieve many of our goals and objectives as a community to be more sustainable and inclusive. There have been several successful projects funded by the CGCBF that have made huge improvements to our community Centre and facilities. These improvements include creating a children’s play park, upgrading community centre electricity, assistance in land purchases, modernizing toilets and ramps for disabled people, creating public toilets, creating gender neutral toilets, installing more energy efficient windows and doors and more. As a result, these projects have enabled us to offer better and more efficient facilities to our community and visitors and in turn making us more self-sufficient and accessible to all.

In addition, the support received from Jennie and the GreenPower team has been exceptional and makes the whole process straight forward and achievable.

We send you best wishes for many more successful years, and we look forward to our next project together!”

### **Erica Kerr – member of Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Steering Group**

“GreenPower has helped a wide range of organisations throughout our 5 Community Councils. The benefit fund has been effectively run to include everyone’s opinions, from a fair cross section, representing all groups. It has been a pleasure to be part of that process. It is satisfying to see generous grant funding efficiently distributed.

The residents of the village of Bridge of Orchy will be forever grateful for the assistance Carraig Gheal Wind Farm (GreenPower) gave them in allowing the restoration of the village hall. It is now a beautiful space where they can not only meet, but meet in comfort!”