



Celebrating 10 years of Heart of the Community

Looking back on 10 years



“

It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since we established our Heart of the Community Fund with the aim of giving back to our communities.

“We'd been supporting local causes long before that but saw the Fund as a way of bringing more structure and strategic focus to this support.

“Keen that we channel our resources where they would be of most benefit, we knew exactly who to ask: our communities themselves. People who live and work in the areas in which we farm and who know first-hand the issues that living in such remote, if beautiful, locations can bring.

“People who recognise sports clubs, for example, as a means of providing younger generations with the same opportunities as those living more centrally, helping guard against depopulation.

“People who understand that a simple playpark ensures there are affordable activities for local families of all incomes and that mother and toddler clubs can help guard against feelings of isolation.

“I could go on. Instead, I'll let this anniversary brochure do the talking. Packed with highlights from the Fund's first 10 years, it's a celebration of the great work going on in our communities, by our communities.

“Here's to what more we can do together over the next 10 years.”

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Jim Gallagher, Managing Director
Scottish Sea Farms

“

The new equipment will help give residents added independence... Importantly, it gives them another option for keeping in contact with friends and family off Orkney.”

Smiddybrae House

Our first Heart of the Community



Dumfries Young Curlers
Offering young Scots the opportunity to learn and enjoy curling.



Eadar Glinn Residential Home, Argyll
Delivering high quality care and comfort to elderly residents.



Orkney Athletic and Running Club
Encouraging and developing new and experienced athletes alike.



Smiddybrae House, Orkney
Providing residential, dementia and palliative care to Orkney's elderly.



Migdale Hospital, Highlands and Islands
Caring for the communities of the Sutherland area.



Lochcarron Playgroup, Highlands and Islands
Providing high quality day care and early learning.

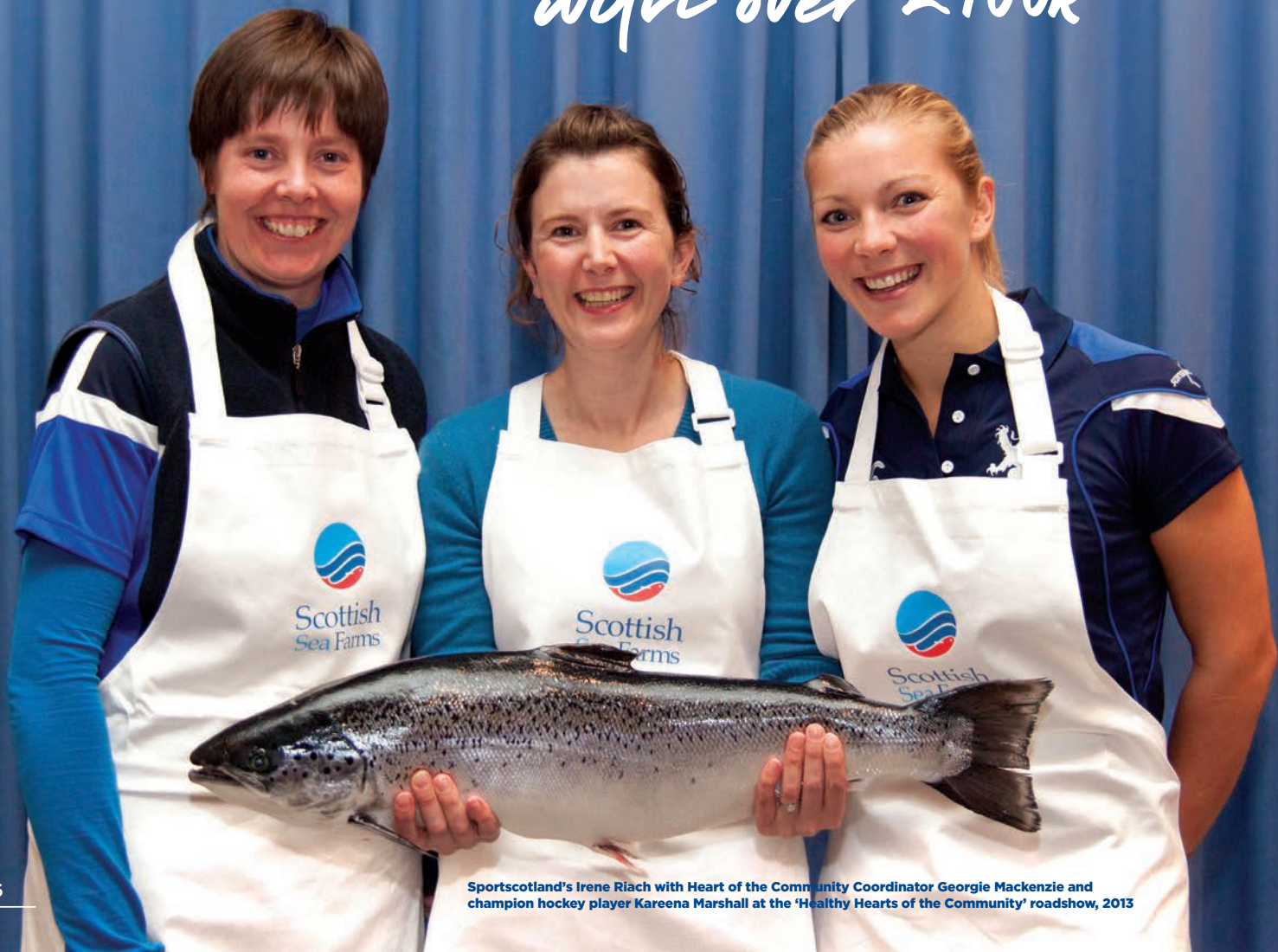
*grants were awarded
in April 2017.*

12 local causes
shared in awards
totalling £35,886.

From building a new pontoon and helping towards the costs of athletics, curling and football clubs, to providing safe spaces and activities for mothers and toddlers and contributing to the cost of dementia care - the diversity of good work going on in our local communities quickly became apparent.

And one grant in particular helped establish Heart of the Community as an initiative keen to help where it was needed most: the donation of iPads to the elderly residents of Smiddybrae House in Orkney, helping them stay connected with family and friends.

*Momentum quickly grew
with over £700k*



SportsScotland's Irene Riach with Heart of the Community Coordinator Georgie Mackenzie and champion hockey player Kareena Marshall at the 'Healthy Hearts of the Community' roadshow, 2013

In the initial years, responsibility for the new Fund rested with Scottish Sea Farms' sales team who, in tandem with colleagues around our farming regions, worked hard to raise awareness of the support available and who oversaw the early applications.

Then, in 2013, sales colleague Georgie Mackenzie was appointed Heart of the Community Coordinator, providing applicants with one single point of contact and helping the wider team spread the word via adverts, posters, visits, regional roadshows and BBQs.

*awarded by the end
of year two.*

Barcaldine Primary School

Growing their own produce as part of the learning experience.



Burray Bairs Playgroup

Providing a place for parents to meet and pre-school children to play.



The Sutherland Schools Pipe Band

Drawing members from Helmsdale, Brora, Gospie, Rogart and Lairg, and based in Golspie High School.

Applicants asked for a few hundred pounds

Grants given 2011-2021

Smallest single grant



£50 was the smallest grant given, requested by Mallaig Primary School to help fund an outward bound course for its seven pupils.

Largest single grant



£20k is the largest amount given in one single grant, first awarded to Appin Community Trust in 2012 to fund the landscaping of a much-used community car park.

Most commonly requested



£5K is the amount most commonly applied for in grant applications, followed by **£2K**.

to many thousands of pounds.

**Most frequently
awarded**

£5K

£5K is the most frequently
awarded amount (43 grants),
followed by **£3K** and **£2K**
(both 28 grants each)

238

**sports
clubs &
events**

109

**schools
& youth
clubs**

56

**community
councils,
trusts or
associations**

37

**festivals
& events**

37

**charities
& hospices**

Recipients ranged from



36

**lifeline
support
services**

29

**music-related
groups**

26

**playparks,
playgroups
& nurseries**

9

**care
homes &
hospitals**

4

**agricultural
causes**

individuals to large groups...



*...located from
Yell in the north*



“

Even something as seemingly small as a £500 grant can be the difference between the basic training or being able to travel to competitive games.”

Yell Junior Football Association

Yell Junior Football Club

Two awards of £500 each were given in 2017 and 2019 respectively, enabling the purchase of new strips and equipment for Yell's young players.



to Dumfries in the south.

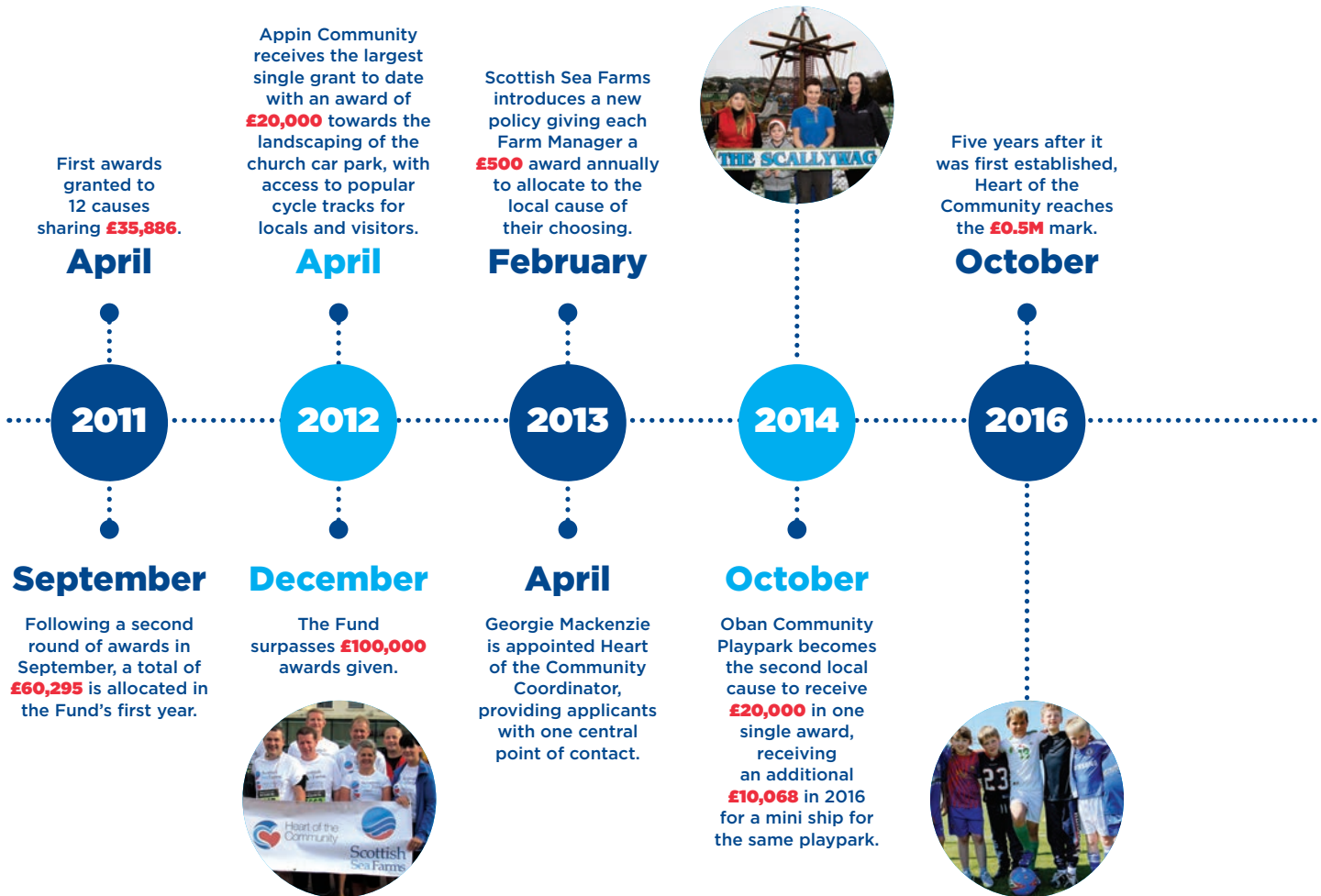


Dumfries local causes

Dumfries Young Curler and Dumfries Hub Wheelchair Curling Club, the Collin Gala, St Michael's Cricket Club, Lochar Thistle Youths FC and Dumfries St Andrews Hospice – all local to our former freshwater Hollywood Hatchery – shared awards totalling £14,100 before the facility was sold to AquaGen in 2019.



10 years, so many great



causes to support.



The second Scottish Sea Farms Triathlon Festival successfully hits its target of raising **£52,000** to buy the RNLI a new D class inshore lifeboat.

May

Scottish Sea Farms' employees and friends cycle, swim and run their way to raising **£20,419** for the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital in Glasgow, in a show of thanks for the medical team caring for the son of a colleague.

May



Heart of the Community celebrates 10 years of giving.

April

2017

May

Scottish Sea Farms stages its first Triathlon Festival, raising **£35,000** for six charities chosen by employees.

2018



2019

August

The combined value of total grants given since 2011 tops the **£1M** mark.

2020

December

Upon discovering that, due to Covid, few Farm Managers had used their **£500** community grant, a company push results in an **£18,280** Christmas boost shared amongst 43 local causes.

2021

December

The total value of grants given surpasses **£1.5M+**.



There have been one-off awards

In some instances, single grants have been requested to help meet the cost of one-off projects and initiatives.

In others, we've been asked to help on a more regular basis – some causes, we're proud to say, having worked with us since the Fund first launched back in 2011.

“

These new planters will really make it a pleasure for all to stroll around the village.”

Mallaig Community Council

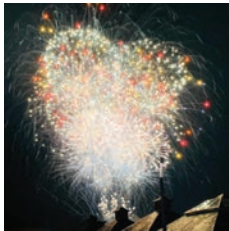


and regular grants.

These include:

Oban Annual Fireworks

£31K



given since 2011

Oban's annual fireworks are a highlight on the local community calendar, with organisers BID4Oban seeking to go bigger and bolder with every year.

Crinan Puffer Race

£28.8K



given since 2011

Organisers of this popular point-to-point annual race, Mid Argyll Community Enterprises, were looking for a title sponsor to help meet some of the running costs and we were happy to help.

Orkney Youth Development Group (OYDG)

£26.4K



given since 2011

Established in 2002, OYDG runs youth football competitions at club and county level, requiring training kits and strips for players and coaches alike.

Soroba Residents Association

£11.5K



given since 2011

Supporting, and speaking up for residents in the Soroba community, one of the largest housing developments in Oban.

Not forgetting Farm Managers' grants

Farm Managers' £500 grants

In 2013, we introduced a new policy whereby every Farm Manager was allocated **£500** annually to give to the local cause of their choosing.

To date, it's added up to a **£59,300** boost, shared across a wide range of community activities: from foodbanks, junior football and festivals to mental health support, Christmas present appeals and cancer charities.



The Farm Managers' allowance means we can give to those local causes that need it the most.”

**Charlotte's Bay Farm Manager
Stephen Woods**



Dunbeg Primary School, Argyll
Providing pupils with extra-curricular activities including outward bound courses.



Burray Community Association, Orkney
Working together to manage local facilities and bring the community of Burray together.



Ollaberry Primary School, Shetland
Learning through play, indoors and out.

Triathlon Festival

2017 brought another boost with the introduction of the Scottish Sea Farms Triathlon Festival, with all proceeds going to good causes:

and special company awards.

2019 **£20.4K**

£20,419 raised for chosen charity Princess Royal Maternity Hospital in Glasgow; a show of thanks for the medical team who cared for the son of a Scottish Sea Farms Farm Manager

2018 **£52K**

£52,000 raised to buy the RNLI a new D class inshore lifeboat

2017 **£35K**

£35,000 shared amongst six charities chosen by Scottish Sea Farms employees: Beatson Cancer Charity, Glasgow Children's Hospital, Cancer Research UK, Brain Tumour Research, Samaritans Scotland and the UK Sepsis Trust.



Princess Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow
Providing life-saving care to premature babies including Oran Keenan (pictured).



Scottish Sea Farms Triathlon Festival, Stirling
Providing a fun incentive to get and stay fit, whilst raising money for good causes.

In the first 10 years,
it added up to 591 grants

4

farming regions

394

local causes helped

591

grants awarded

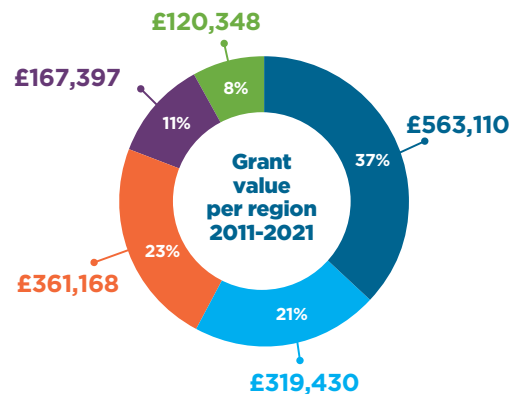
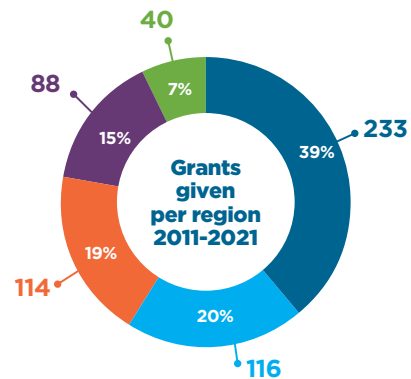
£1.5M+

awarded community-wide

Figures correct up to and including 03 December 2021

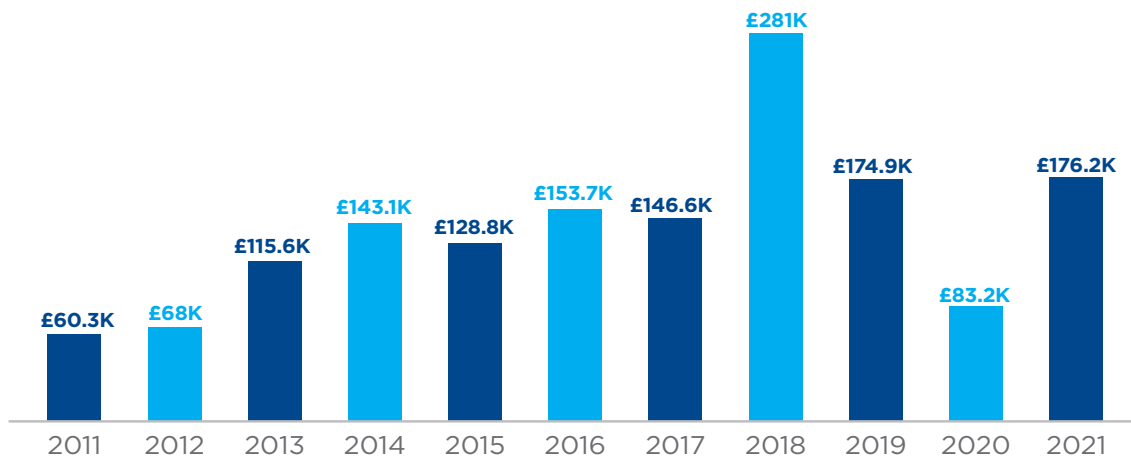
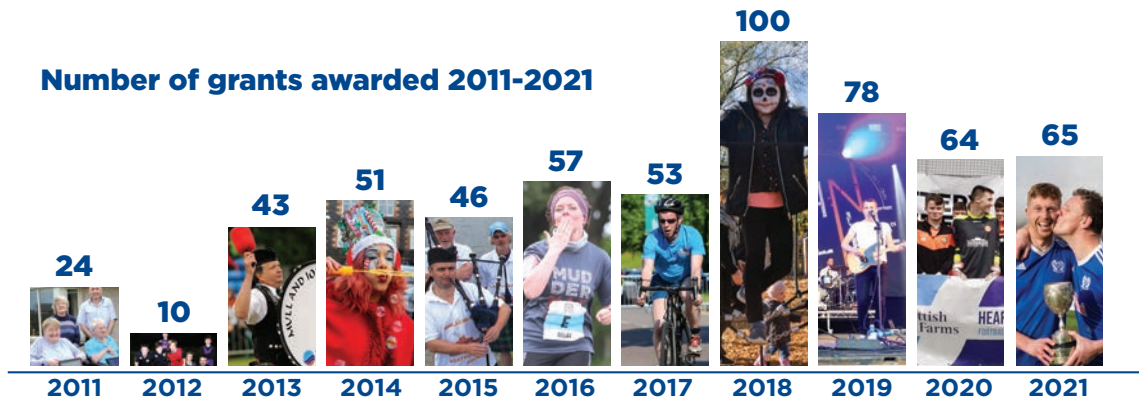
Regional breakdown

- Argyll
- Highland and Islands
- Orkney
- Shetland
- Other



totalling £1.5M+ support.

Number of grants awarded 2011-2021



*Each and every grant
has had one common goal:*

Who better to describe the difference a helping hand can make than some of our local community-based groups themselves:



“ Before, we had to beg or borrow old strips from the boys’ teams. The girls will be delighted to get out of those.”

Shetland Girls Football Club

To make a positive difference.

“This money from Heart of the Community is an absolute game changer. This will double the number of computers per class and means when the teachers want to do a class online, every pupil will be able to access a laptop.”

Aith Junior High School Parent Council

“Our audience are very long suffering, and it will be wonderful to give them an experience where they can actually see and hear clearly.”

South Ronaldsay Film Club

“ Scottish Sea Farms has provided enormous support over the past three years, allowing the Society along with its community partners to plan, prepare, and execute the best possible event each year for not just the teams and spectators but the communities from which they come. They immediately recognised the importance of shinty’s oldest cup competition and its critical status within the region and have actively contributed in its promotion from day one.”

Glasgow Celtic Society

“ Without this commercial backing, we couldn’t offer community events and activities of ambition and scale which make everyone more aware of Shetland’s world-class natural larder. It’s a joy collaborating with sponsors who are so understanding, supportive and flexible.”

Taste of Shetland Festival

“Without the support of Scottish Sea Farms, we would have continued with crowd funding in the community, but this has definitely speeded it up.”

Mull and Iona Community Trust

“ With the funding received, we’ve been able to jump ahead quite quickly. The charity was initially just for men, but we decided to provide support for women too and now we have introduced a youth club for 16 to 21-year-olds.”

Argyll Wellbeing

Here's to the next 10 years.

It's quick and easy to apply.

Interested in applying for a Heart of the Community grant to support the work of your project, group or organisation? We've tried to make the process as quick and easy as possible.

To find out more, or to read some case studies on current and previous grant recipients, visit [scottishseafarms.com](https://www.scottishseafarms.com) > **Community > Heart of the Community.**



Without this help from Scottish Sea Farms, a league campaign would be really difficult to sustain. Many of our players would just not be able to take part, as it will mean regular travel away from Orkney.”

[Orkney Football Club](#)



The project relies solely on grant funding to enable it to continue so this cash is absolutely vital to us.”

[Soroba Young Family Group](#)

Got a question?

Should you have a question, email community@scottishseafarms.com and one of the Heart of the Community team will be in touch.

“

Without this funding, we would be unable to put on such a spectacular display in a safe manner. We are indebted to Scottish Sea Farms for their continued support and investment.”

BID4Oban



A few words of thanks...

No review of the Heart of the Community Fund's first 10 years would be complete without a few words of thanks.

Our thanks to Heart of the Community Coordinator Georgie Mackenzie and many regional representatives, of whom there are too many to mention individually, who actively champion the Fund at local level and help review applications.

Thanks also to the many local photographers whose images appear throughout this anniversary brochure including Alan Cargill, Gordon Siegel Photography, John Fullerton Photography, Krisp Camp Photography, Orkney Photographic, Stephen Lawson Photography and West Coast Photography to name but a few.

Most of all, our thanks go to the many individuals, groups and organisations working across our communities to better the lives of others - you continue to inspire us and guide us on where our resources are needed most.

from all at







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