

HALKIRK DISTRICT BENEFIT FUND

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second edition of the Halkirk District Benefit Fund (HDBF) Newsletter. For those of you not familiar with HDBF, the company was set up in 2004 and funding is provided by Npower Renewables, who own the windfarm at Causeymire. The aim of our newsletter is to get our message to more people and to make the community aware that funding is available for constituted groups and individuals within the community who wish to apply. To become a member (either as an individual or a constituted group) you must live within the Halkirk District Community Council Boundary (this includes Altnabreac, Banniskirk, Calder, Georgemas, Harpsdale, Spittal, Mybster and Westerdale). Applicants should be registered on the electoral roll for the area and complete the appropriate application form which is available at and Westerdale Post Offices.

The decision of how funding should be used and distributed is made by the HDBF Trustees who meet at the Ross Institute in Halkirk approximately ten times a year. The current Chairperson is Mrs Kathryn Cartwright and the Treasurer is Mr Peter Blackwood. The other directors are Mr William Manson, Mr Stuart Mills, Mr Norman Fraser and Mr Dougie Munro. All the Directors are also members and therefore live locally.

Over the past six years many groups and individuals have benefited from funding from HDBF but this newsletter is focusing on the young in the community.



Shannon Eyers

Two of our local youngsters have attained high standards in athletics. Sam O'Kane has achieved national status with his discus throwing and has monthly coaching in Grangemouth, for which HDBF were willing to provide funding for transport.

Shannon Eyers has enjoyed much success in athletics and now focuses on the javelin. Shannon's consistent performances this season led to her being selected to compete for Scotland at the Celtic International Games in Ireland. She competed in the U16 age group and won the bronze medal. Travelling with the Scottish team was a fantastic experience for Shannon. With many regional competitions in Inverness and national competitions in the central belt, transport can be costly and Shannon's father David says that receiving an award from HDBF has really helped with this.

HIGHLAND DANCERS

The Tanya Horne dancers were another group of young people who were able to benefit with funding from Halkirk District Benefit Fund. Teacher Tanya Horne says that the money they received was used to fund the buying of medals for the Tanya Horne Festival of Highland Dancing. They had a wonderful entry of 160 young people from as far North as Orkney and as far South as Aviemore.

Rachel Gunn

Rachel and her pony Flyer competed in the National Pony Club Championships in Draycott, Derbyshire last year and HDBF were able to help with the travelling costs in this 1300 mile round trip from Halkirk.



RACHEL GUNN WITH FLYER

An Expedition of a lifetime for Bruce Stewart

Local Air Cadet Bruce Stewart had the opportunity to take part in an expedition to Lesotho in South Africa working with Prince Harry's charity Sentebale and "Touching Tiny Lives" which is essentially a charity helping children whose parents suffer from AIDS or whose parents simply cannot support them. HDBF was happy to give a grant towards Bruce's trip.

Other groups of young people who have had the benefit of funding from Halkirk District Benefit Fund include Halkirk Primary School with many of their educational school trips, 1st Halkirk Guides with transport costs and new blinds in their meeting room and Halkirk Playgroup who took the pre-school children on a variety of trips prior to the summer holidays.

If you require any more information regarding Halkirk District Benefit Fund please contact: Mrs Sylvia Reilly, Secretary of HDBF on 01847-811375 or see our website. www.halkirkdistrictbenefitfund.org.uk