

HALKIRK DISTRICT BENEFIT FUND

AUTUMN 2013 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 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 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 constituted group). To qualify 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 Halkirk Post Office.

The decision of how funding should be used and distributed is made by the HDBF Directors who meet approximately ten times a year. The current Chairperson is Mr Douglas Munro and the Treasurer is Mr Norman Fraser. Other Directors are Mrs Gillian Coghill, Mr David Busby Mr David Sutherland, Mr Christie Cameron and Mr David Eyers. Over the past years many groups and individuals have benefited from funding from HDBF. Over the past financial year, more individuals and groups than ever before have

received funding from HDBF. With that in mind, it was very disappointing at our recent AGM that out of 165 individual members and 29 Group Members, only the Directors plus 13 members attended. The AGM is your chance to see how the Fund is working and to have your say and ask questions. Thanks to three very recently appointed Directors we currently have our full complement of seven, but as Directors may only serve for six years, two will have to stand down in 2015 so attendance at our AGM in 2014 is crucial and hopefully more of you will be happy to take an active part.

As a "one off" this Newsletter is being sent to every member by post as well as being placed in the Post Office, shop and Doctors' surgery. The Newsletter is normally sent out via email but as email addresses change please contact sechdbf99@yahoo.com with your current email address so our records can be updated and we can ensure you get your copy next time. If you would prefer to receive a copy by post, please fill in and return the tear off slip at the end of this Newsletter.

To date over £400,000 had been spent within the Halkirk Benefit Fund Area to benefit both individual and Group Members. Here are just a few of the members who benefitted recently.

Halkirk Village Council



Halkirk Village Council received funding to upgrade the existing lift in The Ross Institute as required for the Public Entertainment Licence. This upgrade was also necessary for people with disabilities. Pictured above are some of the lift users from Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland who meet at The Ross Institute every Tuesday, with them are Christie Cameron on the right from HDBF and William Manson on the left from Halkirk Village Council. The Village Council have also recently received a grant towards exterior repair work to the Ross Institute.

HALKIRK YOUNG FARMERS

Halkirk Young Farmers were delighted to receive a grant from Halkirk District Benefit Fund. Fiona Swanson, Secretary of Halkirk Young Farmers said the grant had enabled them to purchase much needed equipment as well as tops to make them more identifiable at events. This, she said, has had a positive impact on the club.



Halkirk Young Farmers in their new tops.

Bursaries were also given this summer to Shannon and Stephanie Evers who are up and coming athletes, Kaci Morrison, a talented Highland Dancer, Rachel Gunn for Pony Club expenses, Corey Fraser, a young gymnast and musician Will Campbell.

Group members to have recently been awarded grants by HDBF include Caithness Riding for the Disabled Association who received funding towards a new tack room and a sound system and speakers to enable disabled riders to follow instructions more carefully, Halkirk Playgroup and Toddlers who had funding assistance for outside learning toys and playgroup trips and 1st Halkirk Guides for help towards a weekend trip to Glasgow.

There are also several ongoing projects receiving funding assistance from HDBF, these include The Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Halkirk Youth Club and Halkirk and Westerdale Church of Scotland.

For further information on Halkirk District Benefit Fund please contact our Secretary, Sylvia Reilly on sechdbf99@yahoo.com or 01847-811375 or talk to any of the Directors.

If you would prefer to receive further Newsletters by post please return the slip below to: Mrs Sylvia Reilly, Secretary, Halkirk District Benefit Fund, Loanscorribest, Milton, Reay, KW14 7RE.

I

Of

.....

.....

.....

Would prefer to receive my Newsletter by post to the above address.
