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In this Edition

To celebrate the launch of SAGS own award, we're making this edition a funding special. (See details of our award below).

We look at some sources of funding you might want to tap into and we talk to Nancy MacQueen from Organic Growers of Fairlie to get some advice from her about sourcing and applying for funding.



On page 2, you will find information on members' benefits and, if you haven't already, we would urge you to join us.

At SAGS, we get to hear about great projects happening in allotments and community gardens all over the world so, in this edition, we introduce a regular feature sharing best practice and projects of interest.

In our last newsletter, we put a call out for new board members and some brave souls have answered our call. Our new co-opted members are already making a big contribution. Find out who they are and about details of the up-coming ballot on page 9.



Find us on Twitter

[@ScotAllotments](https://twitter.com/ScotAllotments)

The SAGS Awards 2022

The pandemic has impacted all of our lives. We are acutely aware of the negative impact of restrictions on fund-raising activities for allotment associations in Scotland.

Many allotment sites depend on open days, plant sales and seed swaps to provide funding for on-going expenses, minor and major projects and one-off costs.



In light of a much-reduced income during the pandemic, SAGS trustees board has proposed a grant-funding programme to provide up to £12,000 to assist allotment sites and community funding initiatives throughout Scotland.

£4,000 has been allocated to each of three geographical areas in awards ranging from £250 to £1,000.

Examples of considered projects could be:

- Improving access to growing within site
- Improving or introducing access for disabled/elderly
- Increasing sustainability or biodiversity
- Local community engagement
- Basic tool and equipment provision
- Administrative capital spend

You can find out more about the award here: www.scottishallotments.org/SAGSaward

Members' Benefits

The SAGS membership is made up of individual members, allotment associations and their plot holders and developing groups. We bring together people from all over Scotland who are passionate about allotments and we represent their interests through a wide range of associations with other groups and individuals who have similar interests.

In addition, we meet regularly with Scottish Government and local authorities through the Tripartite Group which allows us to represent Scottish allotments to policy-makers at local and national levels of government.

Legal Advice and Support

As with any organisation, disputes can arise from time to time. Sometimes it is necessary to seek legal advice to obtain the best resolution. SAGS has now partnered with Senscot Legal, a social enterprise providing specialist legal advice and support for third sector organisations in Scotland. As part of this arrangement, SAGS members will be able to access a discounted rates should they require legal services in relation to allotment association activities.

Allotment Insurance

SAGS has teamed up with Chris Knott insurance to offer a 25% discount on insurance for your allotment site. Simply contact Chris Knott and give them your SAGS membership number to take advantage of this offer. Details of the offer can be found [here](#).

Members' Discounts

We negotiate discounts on a range of gardening supplies and equipment. We are constantly adding to this list and members can access all the discount codes via our member's page. You will need a password for this page which is sent to members when they join. If you haven't received your password, please contact treasurer@scotshallotments.org



Join SAGS

No other organisation is devoted to supporting allotments across the whole of Scotland. Our power to do that lies in the strength of our membership. Find out more about SAGS membership [here](#).

SAGS and NAS (National Allotment Society)

SAGS and NAS continue to enjoy a collaborative and co-operative relationship. However, the situation in Scotland is uniquely different, not least of all because we have the Community Empowerment Act. By mutual agreement, both societies have agreed to end combined membership, bearing in mind that SAGS now offers their own insurance, members discounts and access to legal advice. Therefore, our new membership fees will not include combined membership of NAS.

The National Allotment Society website has lots of useful growing advice and other information and you can, of course, take out separate membership with them.

Sources of Funding

Making an application for funding can be time-consuming so this is a great time to think about turning our attentions to this task. If there's a project you've been mulling over, please do not hesitate to apply for one of our SAGS Awards 2022 grants. In addition, you might want to think about applying to other sources of funding in Scotland.

As a member of SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations), we can highly recommend this site for great sources of funding in Scotland. You don't need to be a member to search their funding portal and here's our pick of some of the most suitable for allotments and community gardens.

National Schemes

[The National Lottery Community Fund - National Lottery Awards for All Scotland](#)

Between £300—£10,000 Application deadline: Ongoing

"A quick way to apply for funding between £300 and £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities."

[Tesco Community Grants](#)

Up to £1,500 Application deadline: ongoing

"Applications are open to all local good causes, but we are currently prioritising helping projects that support food security, children and young people and local store nominated good causes."

[Scotmid Community Grant](#)

Up to £500 Application deadline: ongoing

For communities nearby a Scotmid store.

"Scotmid's Community Grant scheme helps deserving causes across Scotland. Since 2012, we have supported hundreds of projects which have touched the lives of people living in the communities we serve."

[DPD Green Eco Fund](#)

Up to £2,000 Application deadline: ongoing

"Anyone can apply for funding from the DPD Eco Fund, although we particularly encourage community groups, educational facilities and start-up companies, with all applications needing to be of a green, ecological or sustainability nature, with the project benefiting the environment."

[Asda Foundation—Green Token Giving](#)

Up to £500 Application : by nomination, one every calendar year

"Each superstore will feature three community projects online that have been nominated by customers and colleagues. They will all be local, grassroots organisations having a positive impact on their local community. The group with the most online votes will receive a £500 donation with second and third place each receiving £200."

Sources of Funding (continued)

Funding Sources by Region

North Ayrshire, East Lothian

Community Windpower £255,00 Covid crisis fund

Emergency funding.

"Community Windpower is responding to the Covid-19 crisis by making £255,000 of funds available to local communities in or near our seven wind farms. We're working with our teams at BeGreen Dunbar and BeGreen Dalry, along with various community councils and the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust, to ensure funds are made available to organisations who need it most."

Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Council Community Food Fund

Up to £2,000 Allocated on a first-come-first-served basis

"The Community Food Fund is intended to support local projects that promote the long-term availability of good quality, affordable food in communities. This could include projects such as Community food Growing."

Annandale and Nithsdale

Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Up to £20,000 3 rounds per year

"Two levels of award are available for activities that benefit the local community. The amount and type of information required from applicants differs depending on the size of application being made but some match funding is required for all awards."

Borders

Scottish Borders Council Community Fund

Up to £5,000 Three rounds of funding

"The Community Fund will continue to provide support to voluntary and community groups that are active within their communities and assist communities or interest groups with the development of community based projects."

Clackmannanshire

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust

Up to £5,000 Trust meets several times a year

"The Trust offers funding to projects through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF). It will consider applications across all types of projects included in the SLCF Objects including: land reclamation, community recycling, public amenities and parks, biodiversity and historic buildings."

Sources of Funding (continued)

Funding Sources by Region

East Dunbartonshire

[East Dunbartonshire Community Grants Scheme](#)

Round 2 applications open 28th January 2022

“You can apply for a grant for a wide range of purposes as long as it is not for profit and brings benefits to the residents of East Dunbartonshire. In your application, you can ask for funding for: start-up costs; special projects; equipment; salaries; running costs”

Falkirk

[Falkirk Council Community Grants Scheme](#)

Up to £5,000 Ongoing

“We will fund projects that foster good community relationships between people. Projects working with people who are disadvantaged or with protected characteristics are more likely to be successful particularly if the application can provide evidence of how people are coming together to improve relationships between people and communities.”

East Fife

[The Lady Margaret Skiffington Trust](#)

£29,000 awarded annually

“Grants are available to organisations benefiting blind and visually impaired people who live in East Fife or who come to East Fife for rehabilitation or training. The trust is particularly interested in sponsoring sensory gardens and facilities.”

Fife

[Carnegie Dunfermline Trust](#)

“The Trust funds projects, activities and schemes with social, community, educational, cultural, sport and recreational purposes for the benefit of those within the defined geographic area of the operation of the Trust. We look for proposals that are innovative and far reaching together with those that particularly impact on young people.”

Glasgow

[Glasgow City Council—Area Budgets](#)

£300—£7,400 on-going

Can fund a wide variety of developmental projects including: projects that promote community activity; short-term/pilot projects (including staff costs); new equipment/materials for local organisations; activity costs at residential centres; environmental improvements; production of educational plays/materials; hire professional instructors; start-up grants or bus hire for day trips.

Sources of Funding (continued)

Funding Sources by Region

Moray

[The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation](#)

£100—£25,000 on-going

“The Foundation’s Trustees meet regularly to consider applications for support from across the North East of Scotland and the Highlands and Islands which demonstrate a positive and lasting impact for people living locally. ”

Orkney

[Orkney Islands Council Community Development Fund](#)

Up to £100,000 Ongoing

Supports a wide range of local capital projects, such as sports facilities, gardens, slipways, village halls, heritage centres, play parks and exhibitions.

South Ayrshire

[South Ayrshire Council Grants](#)

Up to £3,000

Financial support may be available to appropriately constituted voluntary organisations and community groups which provide and promote social, cultural, economic, environmental and recreation facilities.

South Lanarkshire

[South Lanarkshire Council Community Grants](#)

Up to £1,000 on-going

“We can provide financial support to a wide range of community groups through the Council's Community Grant Scheme. This Scheme can deliver grants for a range of activities or to promote and publicise the group in the local community. Grant funding is also available for groups who want to coordinate local Gala-Days or Fun Day events.”

Successful Grant Funding

SCVO has produced an excellent guide to successful grant funding on their website. Their four-step guide is a great source of information and advice:

<https://scvo.scot/funding/guide/steps>

Q and A with Nancy MacQueen of Organic Growers of Fairlie

Fourteen years ago, the Organic Growers of Fairlie site was an old boatyard. Nowadays, it is a thriving community growing space.



The establishment of the site was supported by a grant from Scottish Natural Heritage and they were amongst the first to receive a grant from The Climate Challenge Fund. In addition, they have been able to access financial support for a wide range of projects.

We asked Nancy MacQueen, Secretary of Organic Growers of Fairlie, for her advice on seeking funding:

How do you source possible funding?

Our community engagement officer points us to specific funds we might be interested in. Ayrshire Community Trust (and other local trusts) will give funding when available.

The [Green Health Partnership](#) provides funding info and gardening groups can join for free. There are sometimes online community forums that we attend to learn about funds which are arranged by the council. Our MSP holds regular funding fairs.

Our local Co-op had instore grants of £250 and asking at Morrisons has provided vouchers for some small purchases.

Keep Scotland Beautiful's monthly newsletter lets us know about funders. Any group who is involved in growing vegetables or flowers can join [It's in Your Neighbourhood](#) for free. Also free to join is [Social Farms and Gardens](#) which sometimes directs towards funding. Finally the SCVO website has a list of funders.

How much time do you need to put aside to make a successful funding application?

It would depend on the amount of funding you are applying for and complexity of the form. I usually apply for funding less than £3000 and could spend up to three hours. For larger sums of funding, it could be a day, or more likely longer.

What type of projects do you think tend to be most successful?

As we are an allotment with raised beds, the main applications have been for raised beds replaced as capital and as a sustainable community resource. Funding applications were equally successful for projects that introduced adults and young people to gardening as well as funding for areas for the whole community to use.

What tips can you give other sites for making a successful funding application?

It is very important to understand what the criteria is and always work to that in the answers. At the moment the funding is usually related to such things as climate change, Covid recovery, food growing initiatives, reducing poverty and inequality and also promoting healthy living. You are asked to relate to one category at least. This is often the hardest and most time consuming part of an application.

You need to read the application several times first and don't leave it to the last minute. Expect to have audited accounts signed and dated, an up to date balance or most recent bank statement. They would ask how much you can contribute to the project and for referees. They could also ask for testimonials and pictures and most definitely your constitution. Quotes of the costs to back up the application will be needed. Get all this ready first as it is normally the last thing asked for on the form just when you think you have finished.

If your funding is successful it is good to recognise the funder publicly.

What advice can you give to start-up allotments/community gardens for funding their projects?

Be flexible when planning your site allowing for changes to be made as needs evolve. Make sure you check to see if planning permission is needed before erecting structures including polytunnels.

Be persistent and look for a good lease. Establish good relations with the local council. They should help in finding a site and could help in the future. Look into the possibility of an asset transfer.

Prove the need for an allotment and get all those interested to get in touch with the council. Make sure you have a good case for the advantages: improving the environment; increased biodiversity; reducing carbon footprint; water retention; tree planting, possibly with fruit trees and the obvious community benefits.

Around Allotments and Gardens

[Nancy's Blog Post on Scottish Pollinators](#)

Nancy was kind enough to help us out with advice on funding (page 6). You can read her recent blog on Scottish Pollinators where she talks about the development of Organic Growers of Fairlie.

[Asda helps Blantyre Veterans Expand Community Garden](#)

Asda Blantyre helps fund the purchase of much-needed items for a garden that provides a space for veterans to meet and work together. They grow a range of vegetables which they provide free to those living in the local area.

[Donation of Water Containers for Elgin Allotments](#)

Two large capacity water containers from Springfield Properties will help Elgin Allotments Association maintain their plots in the summer months. Now, the association is planning to expand to a second site in Elgin by 2022.

[Allotments could be as Productive as Farms](#)

Researchers at the University of Sussex found that allotmenters grew over 70 kg of produce on average in one season, a range they said was within productivity levels on conventional non-organic farms, with limited pesticide use.

[Duke of Northumberland Loses Bid to Bulldoze Allotments](#)

The Duke was expected to win the fight to build 80 new flats on Park Road Allotments, Hounslow but the majority of councillors on the planning committee voted against the proposal.

[Chef Serves up Community Kitchen Garden in Alloa](#)

An Alloa church has taken delivery of raised beds and planters to create a community garden which will support the local community café. The project is the vision of chef, Billy Campbell.

[3 Scottish Councils are in the Top 10 Longest Waiting Lists in UK](#)

Myjobquote has gathered data from over 300 local councils and compiled their top ten longest average waiting times. Sadly, East Lothian (15 years), City of Edinburgh (8.7 years) and West Dunbartonshire (8 years) all make the list.

[New Food Growing Plots for Glasgow](#)

Over 250 new plots for growing are being created across Glasgow as part of the council's food growing strategy. It is hoped that the 259 new plots will help to meet the current high demand for growing spaces.

[Birmingham's Famous Allotment Cat back after Surgery](#)

With over 37,000 followers on Twitter, Robert the cat lives on a once-threatened Birmingham allotment site. When he needed surgery for ulcers on his eyes, people from all over the world came together to pay for it.

[360 New Allotment Gardens to Open in Singapore](#)

It's not just here that the demand for allotments is soaring. The City of Singapore has responded to the increased interest in food growing by creating 360 new allotment plots across 8 parks.

If you spot an interesting story about allotments that you think we should share, please send details to newsletter@scottishallotments.org

The Board gets Bigger

In our last newsletter, we asked for volunteers to join our board and we have been delighted to welcome seven co-opted members to help us support Scotland's allotments and gardens. You'll be able to read more about them during the up-coming board elections. They are:



Amanda Fooks Stacey MaHar
Alistair MacKinnon Fiona MacKinnon
Malcolm MacQueen Geraldine Sherry
Richard Windows

Upcoming Ballot

Our Annual Ballot is being held online again this year. This continues to be the best way to get formal Society business completed. SAGS constitution requires an annual Ballot to provide administrative oversight for Members and for the Trustee Board. There are some developments which the Trustees are able to manage themselves on behalf of the Society's members, but others, such as Board Trustee status and the election of principle post holders is required to be done by the wider membership.

The paperwork sent with the Ballot papers will include our audited financial report, a business report and a review of the year from the Board. Please look out for online registration and the opportunity to help shape the future of SAGS. Should any member wish to propose or amend any constitutional point or nominate themselves to join the SAGS Trustee Board, then please get in touch by email to:

ballot2022@scottishallotments.org before Sunday, March 13th at 2200.

In Memoriam



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our friend and colleague, Andrew Reid in April 2021. Andrew had been ill for a while, but carried on, with energy and vigour, for as long as he could.

Our current Treasurer, Trevor Watson took over from Andrew last year:

"He proved to be a knowledgeable and willing advisor whenever I sought guidance as the new treasurer. His knowledge and enthusiasm will be sadly missed by the allotment growing community in Scotland."

You can read about Andrew's contribution to SAGS and tributes to him [here](#).

Share your stories

If you have a story you want to share with the rest of the Scottish allotments and gardens community, please contact us:

newsletter@scottishallotments.org

