



# Community Engagement Newsletter

## June 2022

Welcome to our second newsletter. Thank you for all the positive comments we received about our first one. In this quarter's newsletter we have an update about Place Making, what has been happening in each locality, what's coming up in the next few months and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund.

If you have any comments, if there is anything that you would like to see in a future edition or if you'd just like a chat to get to know us please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are out and about in the community and would love to meet you.

You can email us at [communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk) or call us on 0300 100 1800.

## Place Making

SBC is working with communities through a proposed Place Making approach.

The aim is to empower communities to plan and prioritise needs and ambitions, develop local action plans and to work collaboratively with the Council and other organisations to implement them. The proposed approach recognises that not all communities are the same, have the same capacity or needs and that every community that wants to be involved will need to move at a pace that is appropriate to their circumstances.

A core team has been established to support this work comprising:

- 5 Community Engagement Officers
- 2 Place Planning and Regeneration Officers
- 1 Green Space Officer
- 1 Climate Change Officer
- 1 Project Manager



# Berwickshire

## Community Engagement Officer: James Purves

### Highlights

BAVS Bacon Butty Blether is back! I attended the most recent meeting at Chirnside Community Centre, I had the pleasure of meeting many people from different community groups in Berwickshire and visiting the Community Larder. It was a brilliant opportunity to talk about funding opportunities available through the Council including Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund.

Things are shaping up with the first junior parkrun in the Scottish Borders which is on schedule to start in early July 2022. A huge achievement for the hard work of Eyemouth's Fiona Wootton who has worked hard at liaising with Parkrun's ambassador Andrew Aird. Junior parkrun is being delivered in conjunction with the NHS Eyemouth Gateway to Good Health with the aim of reducing obesity and Type 2 diabetes.



### Local groups/projects

I visited Eat Sleep Ride's new premises in Lamberton and saw how the funding they have received through Build Back a Better Borders and the Berwickshire Community Fund is being used to help cover the costs of running two new projects focusing on health and wellbeing, social isolation and the environment to support people in their recovery from the pandemic.

I also recently visited Berwickshire Marine Reserve and met Lizzie the Lobster and was lucky enough to be there on the day a baby lobster hatched – a first for me. Berwickshire Marine Reserve received an award of £15,000 from the Build Back a Better Borders fund to support salary costs for two positions which will support the recruitment of volunteers and delivery of projects that will help Berwickshire Marine Reserve understand the condition of the Berwickshire coastline and how it can best be protected.



### Place Making Update:

The [Berwickshire Area Partnership](#) has set up a Working Group to make recommendations on the way forward regarding Place Making in Berwickshire. The Group has been in touch with local groups and organisations to let them know about the approach being taken in Berwickshire and how they can be involved.

### Neighbourhood Support Fund

The Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund (previously known as the Community Fund) opened on 1 April 2022. There are two applications going forward to the first round which will be heard at the Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting on the 9th June 2022. The next round of applications will be presented to Berwickshire Area Partnership on 1 September 2022.

Information about the Fund is available at [Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund](#) or contact us for a chat at the email address on last page of this newsletter.



## Community Fund 2021/22 end of year summary

Thirteen projects received funding totalling £54,639.79 from Berwickshire Community Fund last year. We can't wait to find out how the projects went and to see your photos.

### In the coming weeks I will be:

- Visiting Coldingham Priory Garden, Sea the Change and Coldingham Beach
- Visiting Eyemouth Men's Shed and Eyemouth Harbour Sea Garden where art students from Eyemouth High School are working with the architect for the Harbour redevelopment to create a Sea Garden in a gap site.
- Discussing play parks with community members and parents along with officers from SBC Parks & Environments and Estates teams
- Meeting with Eyemouth Football Club to discuss fencing options



# Cheviot

## Community Engagement Officer: David Peebles

### Highlights

Young people and older adults in Kelso have been learning new skills together, including surveying and historic building recording through a series of workshops supported by Archaeology Scotland, Kelso High School, SBC's Community Learning and Development Service, Kelso Heritage Society and volunteers from the local community. I recently had the opportunity to meet pupils involved who were able to tell me about the history of the area.

The intergenerational project, funded by the Build Back a Better Borders Fund, has supported young people at risk of disengaging with school and isolated older adults in the community to recover from the impact of social isolation and reduced access for support services experienced during the pandemic.

### Local groups/projects

I have attended Jed Lunch Club, which is run by volunteers has started up at Jed Thistle Club Rooms on the last Monday of the month between 12 and 1pm with a grant from the Community Fund. This has been so popular that they are looking to extend to two events a month, which means more washing up for me when I pop in.

I had a fantastic visit to the Community Garden in Kelso which Abundant Borders have started, supported by Eildon Housing Association. This project is in its infancy but comes with a huge amount of energy and support from local residents and volunteers which will have a positive impact on the community and enhance the local area, growing local produce, promoting healthy eating with sustainable community involvement. It is hoped that bees will be brought to site next year.

The Cheviot Youth Hubs based in Jedburgh and Kelso provide a safe, accessible and welcoming place in which to access a range of services, workshops, training opportunities, clubs and drop-ins. Staff are always available for a cuppa and a chat. My visits to the Hubs are informative and their hands on approach to youth engagement is refreshing.

Cheviot Togs is a volunteer community organisation which collects good quality children's clothing, launders and gifts them to children who need them. More information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/CheviotTogs/>

### Place Making

The Place Making conversation continues in Cheviot with community members and local services attending a Place Making conversation in April to discuss what Place Making means to communities, the principles behind it and how a start can be made on Place Making in Cheviot.

Cheviot Area Partnership will consider feedback from the workshop in planning next steps for Place Making in the Locality.

### Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23

The Cheviot Neighbourhood Support fund opened on April 1st and is available to help Cheviot community groups and organisations take forward projects and activities in their area. Two Neighbourhood Support Fund applications have been assessed by the Cheviot Assessment Panel and will be considered at the June meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership. For more information visit the [Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund](#) web page or contact us to discuss your idea with an Officer.

### Community Fund 2021/22 end of year summary

In total, 17 community groups were awarded grants from the 2021/22 Community Fund totalling £26,247.85.



# Eildon

## Community Engagement Officer: Erin Coltman

### Highlights

Yarrow Primary School Parent Teachers Association (PTA) received funding from last year's Community Fund to create a safe path between the primary school and village hall. The road between the two was unsafe for pupils to walk along and at the time of the application with a bus needed to ensure that the pupils were able to safely travel the 0.2 miles. A fenced-off path was created in the field running parallel to the road. The path ensures that school pupils are not at risk from road traffic, benefit from fresh air, exercise and easier access to the hall for physical education. The landowner is still able to use the field whilst the pupils can safely walk along it.



### Local groups/projects

The Rotary Club of Selkirk received a grant from the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund to support their *Celebrating Selkirk* project, in partnership with Selkirk Business Improvement District, Explore Selkirk, Brighter Selkirk and Scotland Loves Local. Working together they offered retailers a free platform to promote their business, support local charities, showcase local talent, encourage intergenerational work, engage children and young people and involve the whole community. The event was free to enter and despite the best efforts of Storm Arwen, attracted over 700 members of the public with 27 stallholders, 40 entertainers and 25 volunteers and staff.



Following the success of the *Celebrating Selkirk* project and feedback from stallholders and the local community, the Rotary Club are planning to run a similar community event later in 2022. The *Celebrating Selkirk* brand that was created for the event is being considered for future use to encompass all Christmas Events in the town. Jointly promoting all that is happening in Selkirk in the lead up to Christmas 2022, it will give the town a much needed post-pandemic boost, attract visitors to the town and continue to help local shops and

### Neighbourhood Support Fund

The transition into the new financial year of 2022/23 brings new funding opportunities for groups, with the opening of the new Neighbourhood Support Fund meaning that there is £147k available for local community projects throughout the Eildon locality. If you are part of a community group that would like to apply to the Neighbourhood Support Fund to assist in the delivery of a project that will benefit the local community, [please go to our website to find out more information](#).

### Community Fund 2021/22 end of year summary

The Neighbourhood Support Fund was previously known as the Community Fund in the 2021/22 financial year and helped support 22 groups within Eildon. Successful applications totalled £99,473.



## Over the coming weeks I will be:

- Working with Newstead and Selkirk community groups to consult with the local community on the upgrading/ refurbishment of their play parks
- Catching up with a variety of different community groups across Melrose, Galashiels, Oxton and Stow to see how SBC-funded projects are progressing
- Working closely with Galashiels & Area Foodbank and the Focus Centre in Galashiels to assist with the delivery of the “Low & Slow” pilot project, starting early July. The weekly cooking sessions for adults, utilising slow cookers will be delivered in partnership with Changeworks who will be there to provide important home energy advice for participants
- Catching up with Lauder Larder and Lauder Community Centre to see how things are progressing and what learnings can be taken and applied to similar projects across Eildon and the Scottish Borders. LCC are delivering a project, known as “Hungry Hub” where you “pay what you can” where the sessions are focussed on making meals from a selection of ingredients available from the larder.



# Teviot & Liddesdale

## Community Engagement Officer: Scott McKail

### Highlights

I was very lucky to be invited along to an Eco-education day on Ruberslaw hill near Denholm & Hawick. The P7 class from Burnfoot Community School were a great bunch and clearly gained a huge amount from the experience.

The 'wild art' competition was super fun, with all the young people creating 3D art works from materials found on the hill. The day was part of a project run by Hornshole Greenway Development Group who received £15,000 from the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund.

Hornshole Greenway is a large scale, multifaceted project which is intended to build on the town's historic, cultural and natural assets and encourage more visitors to the town. The aim is to deliver the different phases of the project over the next 2-3 years. Phases include the establishment of a Greenway from Wilton Lodge Park to Hornshole, the establishment of a community garden and the construction of a statue designed to be a tourist attraction for the town. One phase of the project is the advancement of a sustainable Eco Education programme. This has developed from a pilot project delivered in three primary schools in the Teviot & Liddesdale area.

### Local groups/projects

The Bedrule Heritage project is Phase II of "The 12 Towers of Rule" programme project, managed by the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park (CSBNP) and funded by SBC's Build Back a Better Borders Fund and Archaeology Scotland's "Adopt-a-Monument" programme.

Excavation involved young people and adults to complete a programme of 8 Attainment through Archaeology workshops that ran throughout the excavation. In total 113 young people and 16 adults participated in these sessions. The workshops provided open access to the dig for a wider range of the local community and offered skills development opportunities through participation in archaeological fieldwork for the young people involved.





## Neighbourhood Support Fund

Five applications are being assessed. Recommendations will be presented to Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership on 21 June. More information about the [T&L Neighbourhood Support Fund](#) is available on the SBC website.

## Community Fund 2021/22 end of year summary

The Teviot & Liddesdale Community Fund had a new approach, implemented in September 2021. The fund was split into two pots of money with a total of £36,008.76 awarded.

### In the coming weeks I will be:

- Helping the Burnfoot Community Orchard delivering leaflets in the Burnfoot area
- Visiting the Chisholme Institute in Roberton. This is a retreat which has a focus on mindfulness, growing and cooking, as well as working with volunteers
- Attending the Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council meeting 4 July, and Southdean Community Council meeting 27 June
- Attending the new Hawick High School consultation in the school, 2-8pm on 28 June





# Tweeddale

## Community Engagement Officer: Hannah Lacon

### Highlights

Kingsland Primary School Pupil Council were awarded £2,224.62 from the Welfare Trust Fund to establish a Community Share Shed within their school grounds. The shed will contain items such as food, plants, books and clothing which can be accessed by families of the school as well as the wider community. In partnership with Peeblesshire Foodbank and their own school garden they will host a breakfast club for school children who have come to school without a breakfast and will also provide school grown food for people who need it.



I attended Dementia Friendly Tweeddale's first drop-in session at the Masonic Hall 26th May 2022. The aim of the drop-ins are to offer a safe and welcoming space for people effected by dementia either as a sufferer or as a family member or carer. Those attending will have the opportunity to enjoy a tea or coffee whilst making connections with others effected by dementia living in Tweeddale.





On 24 May Peebles Community Council held a special meeting at Peebles High School to discuss the problems around anti-social behaviour in Peebles and Innerleithen. The Anti- social Behaviour Steering Group led by Malcolm Bruce were invited to attend along with representatives from Police Scotland, the Parent Council, SBC and Tweeddale Youth Action and myself. Several 6th form pupils were also there to provide a valuable youth voice to the discussion.

We heard from the Depute Headteacher Donna Moretta who gave an update on the results gathered from a survey provided to the student body around their thoughts on why anti- social behaviour had become a problem.

The meeting provided a valuable platform to share ideas on how to begin to tackle the problem. Considering options going forward, all in attendance were in agreement that young people need to be celebrated not demonised and that they need to be consulted and involved when shaping how anti-social behaviour is tackled.

## Local Groups/ Projects

The Peeblesshire Foodbank was awarded funding of £5,000 from the Tweeddale Community Fund so they could purchase a van. Thanks to their hard work they can now deliver food packages to those in the community who are in need but do not have the means to get to the Foodbank.



## Place Making

A newly established Place Making Working Group for Tweeddale was established after the March Area Partnership. The sub group consists of 8 members from various community groups across Tweeddale representing not only Peebles but Walkerburn, Eddleston and Newlands as well. The group represents a variety of demographics from youth clubs to development trusts and local community councils. The group plans to gather information in the form of a community wide survey where people can express how they feel about their community and what they feel they would need to live a better life.

## Neighbourhood Support Fund

We have 7 applications currently being assessed by the Tweeddale Assessment Panel ahead of the next Tweeddale Area Partnership due to take place on 27th June 2022. Information about the [Tweeddale Neighbourhood Support Fund](#) is available on the SBC website.

## Community Fund 2021/22 end of year summary

The Tweeddale Community Fund awarded grants totalling £56,567.90 to 23 community groups in the 2021/22 financial year.

## Over the coming weeks I will be:

- attending the Food Hugs drop-in lunch club in Walkerburn
- involved with Clovenfords and District CC in a project to develop the playing fields in Clovenfords to include a community orchard and a community growing element/garden
- attending a meeting at Halyrude Primary School to discuss developing a garden for their school



# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund

We saw lots of activity over the Jubilee weekend as Borderers celebrated this historic event. Scottish Borders Council's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund was used to fund a huge variety of get-togethers from community picnics to pipe bands, hog roasts to duck races as well as legacy projects such as tree planting and erection of wheelchair accessible picnic benches.

One event that attracted a lot of national publicity was the re-enactment, in Kelso, of the Queen's Coronation. Members of the local Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts took on the roles as the sun shone and people crowded into the town square. The event was a brilliant example of our fantastic, vibrant communities. They deserve all the national plaudits they received. Congratulations to everyone involved.

There has been a wealth of positive comments about the weekend: "the country did her (the Queen) proud," "another huge thank you for helping us...celebrate the Queen in style", "a great achievement by all involved thanks to the SBC QPJF," "we have to say that the bunting and the poster of the Queen looked amazing in our little village and it really marked this special occasion."

A list of Queen's Platinum Jubilee projects funded is available on the [SBC website](#). Images will be made available on the [SBC Flickr](#) page as we receive them





# The Communities and Partnerships Team

The five Community Engagement Officers are part of the SBC Communities & Partnerships Team, the other members of the team are:

Communities & Partnerships Manager

Community Co-ordinators (x2)

Participation Officer

Clerical Assistant

## We work with and support:

- Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership
- Five Area Partnerships
- Community-led Assessment Panel who make recommendations on Neighbourhood Support Fund applications to the Area Partnerships
- Community-led working groups to lead on Place Making in each locality

As always, if you are part of a community group or working closely with a community group and would like to have a chat about any future plans (funding-related or otherwise), please don't hesitate to get in touch.

[communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk)

**Tel: 0300 100 1800**

## Quick links

[Neighbourhood Support Fund](#)

[Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund](#)

[Build Back a Better Borders Fund](#)

[Grant funding for community projects](#)

[Area Partnerships](#)