



Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust Annual Report 2024

www.rewdt.org

Registered Office: The Cabin, Pier, Brinian,
Rousay, Orkney, KW17 2PU
Telephone: 01856 821 229
E-mail: info@rewdt.org



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A message from our Chair

Hello!

I am delighted to present our Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2024, which has seen another busy year of grants, projects, and activities.

One of the fantastic things about the Development Trust is the breadth of projects we do, and you never know when a new funding opportunity may present itself. There have been countless examples of this over the years, but just one excellent example in the past year is our community transport project, which started as a trial 'dial-a-ride' service to better utilise our electric car; this in turn led to securing funding to expand the service, and most recently the securing of additional funding to purchase a larger electric vehicle!

Our grants programme continues, with an amazing total of £63,000 awarded to community groups and individuals in the last financial year, including £20,250 of fuel crisis grants as we supported households with rising electricity bills. I was especially pleased with the continuation of our community groups fund, which assists with the costs for both new and existing groups in our community, a fund which was introduced to kickstart events and activities post-Covid and has had a long-lasting positive impact with a variety of activities and trips.

We are disappointed that our Trust Manager, Stuart has decided to return to Wales this Summer, however, his contribution to the Development Trust and our projects since he started in February 2023 cannot be understated, and I'm very excited to see continued progress on these, including on housing and The Taversoe, amongst others.

Finally, it has been particularly heartening to see the involvement and support of our community in all our projects, and I extend a big thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last year.

A message from our Trust Manager

It is opportune to present our new Strategy Document at the outset of this year, providing a comprehensive roadmap for the trust's endeavours over the next decade. This document delineates pivotal strategies to be pursued:

- Fostering and supporting robust, dynamic community groups.
- Enhancing engagement with our community members.
- Facilitating economic development within our community.
- Promoting community well-being and access to essential services.
- Cultivating a vibrant community through the development of existing assets and the exploration of new ventures.

Our progress across these strategies is evident in the array of projects detailed in this report. I am heartened by the enthusiastic involvement of our community and the invaluable support garnered from external stakeholders.

Maintaining consistent and transparent communication has been a priority, both internally and externally. Collaborating with other Orkney-based development trusts, we recently presented our collective achievements to elected council members in Kirkwall, showcasing the impactful work being undertaken across the islands. Positive feedback on our monthly newsletters, particularly regarding the inclusion of video elements, reflects our commitment to engaging communication.



Presenting to Orkney Council alongside other Trust representatives

A significant milestone in our communication efforts is the establishment of our office, facilitating easier access to our services. If you haven't already visited, I encourage you to do so. Our office hours are from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Wednesday, or by appointment outside of these times.

On a personal note, it is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell in this second annual report. Regrettably, due to familial obligations, my partner Sarah and I will be relocating back to Wales in early July. Our time here on Rousay has been immensely rewarding, and we remain hopeful that the projects I've contributed to will continue to thrive, making a lasting impact on the community.

Stuart

Stuart Williams
Trust Manager



The new office cabin arriving.

REWIRED Ltd

REWIRED is our trading subsidiary – a company which maintains the community wind turbine. Profit from REWIRED is usually gifted to REWDT on an annual basis, providing much-needed funds for our grants programme and our community projects.



With over 11 years of generation, our turbine has now produced just over 35 million kWh. Output this year was 3,182,505kWh which is 132,342kWh above our yearly average which is now over 27 thousand kWh. Curtailment this year was 22.25% which is also our average over the last 10 years and our productivity of 40.37% reflects favourably against our average of 38.96% despite some technical

issues at the beginning of the year. Following the increased energy prices we have all experienced, REWIRED succeeded in securing our highest ever power purchase agreement which has significantly helped increase our income from export for 2022/23. Currently it appears that the peak in prices has been and gone so we will probably not be so fortunate next year – hopefully though it will mean all of us will be paying less for our bills at home every month!

As mentioned above, the turbine has been generating for over 11 years. As can be expected, it has started to experience increased levels of technical issues and therefore periods of non-generation. This is something we will need to be prepared for even more going forwards as the turbine ages. The team at REWIRED are aware of these issues and are constantly investigating the most appropriate use of REWIRED’s financial resources to protect the project into the future.

Here's a comparison of our productivity across the last 3 financial years:

Financial Year	Actual Productivity (kWh)	% Productivity (against 37% target)	% Curtailment (against 7% expectation)
2020-21	3,323,097	42.15%	13.41%
2021/22	2,992,276	37.95%	20.32%
2022/23	3,182,505	40.37%	22.25%

Productivity for 2021/22 was significantly affected by the technical issues the turbine experienced in March 2022. Productivity was 6.7% for the entire month! 2022/23 did improve especially considering the turbine was not able to generate at 100% for some of April & May.

Trumland Estate Land & Boardwalk

During the year, we celebrated the official opening of the 'Eleanor Barr Heart of Rousay' boardwalk by our MSP, Liam McArthur. This boardwalk stands as a lasting tribute to Eleanor, who was dearly cherished by many, and has since been frequented by both residents and visitors alike.



Opening day for the Boardwalk

As part of ongoing enhancements, we are finalising the installation of three interpretation panels along the boardwalk. These panels will provide valuable insights into energy, flora and fauna, and will also identify the numerous islands visible from the platform.

Additionally, we commissioned a comprehensive report on land management options with the assistance of a consultant. The findings of this report have prompted us to recruit a new Estate Ranger in 2024. The role of the ranger will encompass safeguarding the land for the benefit of wildlife and the environment, while also exploring opportunities to expand leisure access and undertake projects aimed at enhancing the overall enjoyment of the land. This will also cover developing the Boathouse at Wasbister Loch which has been restored and watertight.



Housing

A pivotal strategy in advancing the self-sustainability of the islands involves attracting new residents or empowering our younger generation to establish roots here independently by developing affordable social housing for rent.

Efforts have been underway during the year to advance plans to construct two new 2-bed bungalows on Johnstone Road. Although progress has been slower than anticipated, we remain optimistic that significant headway will be made in 2024 and the contractor will be able to start on site.



Layout plans for the two bungalows on Johnstone Road

Furthermore, we have achieved success in securing funding from the Scottish Land Fund, allowing us to assess the feasibility and develop a business case for the acquisition of the Old Manse for social housing purposes. Subsequently, with the full backing secured, we anticipate the completion of the purchase by summer 2024. Our plans include the conversion of the building into two single-bed flats on the first floor, while the ground floor will be evaluated for potential conversion into either a community asset or a further two-bed flat. Additional funding from the Scottish Government Rural Housing Fund is also accessible to support these endeavours.



Initial concept layouts for flats in the Manse.

Collectively, these initiatives are poised to yield up to five individual housing units available for social rental. An allocation policy will be implemented to ensure that occupants contribute positively to the growth and development of the islands.

Wellbeing



The Island Wellbeing Project is a partnership between Voluntary Action Orkney and the Development Trusts of Hoy, Stronsay, Sanday, Shapinsay, and Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre. Nicky Jacques is the Community Wellbeing Coordinator for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre.

Nicky's role includes developing new projects and groups for the islands and she also provide one-to-one support to anybody that needs it, helping people identify and access the support they need.

Below are some of the projects that Nicky has developed in the last year, these were funded by the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund from VAO and Scottish Government.

Island Wellbeing Projects and Activities in 2023/2024

Following another successful grant application to the VAO & Scottish Government 'Communities & Mental health Fund' Nicky delivered these four Wellbeing projects over the year.

1. Guided Walks

With Vicky Anderson, RSPB Warden for Onziebust & Trumland we had one guided walk on each of Egilsay and Rousay Islands which were enjoyed by everyone attending. Picnics were provided for all along with inter-island ferry travel. Unfortunately, a further 2 walks had to be postponed at short notice due to forecasted heavy rain and winds.

13 people attended these two walks along with the RSPB Warden for Rousay and Egilsay.



2. Online Community dance classes

We purchased a large TV screen and mobile stand and then held 8 sessions of Online Zumba in the Community hall with North Isles Dance Academy instructor, Charlotte, joining us online on the big screen. There were 59 attendances across the 8 sessions from 12 individuals.

Whilst doing these online dance classes we experienced issues with Wi-Fi Signal strength which resulted in intermittent signal on some days. In conjunction with Rousay Community Association we are working with Orkney Islands Council to improve the Guest Wi-Fi provision in the Community Rooms to enable more online activities to be provided in the future.

The large screen is also now a useful asset for other online community activities and for enabling an online option for community meetings. Some of the comments from those attending said;

'This has improved my stamina and assisted me to reach my 10,000 steps a day goal, it's a great cardio workout.'

'The group has helped me get out and moving'

'It has increased my fitness and I had good fun dancing!'

'Great to see different folk here'

'Exercise that is fun and improves concentration'

'I feel fitter, lost weight'

'Social, mental and physical benefits through being with friends and doing exercise'

'Good fun! Great to be active with others and lovely to be able to join a dance class and learn a new dance'

2. Self-care and wellbeing pampering therapies

We offered monthly free treatment sessions with Beauty by HanHan throughout the year. The treatments were all 30 minute treatments for one of the following: -

- Back, neck & shoulder massage
- Mini-facial
- Simple manicure
- Simple pedicure

We held 9 sessions in total with seven slots available each session and these were very popular, the appointments all booked up quickly often with a waiting list.

28 individuals (men and women) have so far received 55 treatments provided.

Feedback from those who enjoyed a treatment included: -

'The massage really helps my pain and with stress management... This free treatment has given me the confidence to have more treatments'

'Very relaxing, so wonderful'

'Time to relax just for me, something I've never tried before and I really enjoyed it'

'The massage helped with pain relief and so good to talk to someone about my pain.. it's so good for self-care and to do something just for myself- amazing. Household finances are very tight and so it's not something I could do.'

'Time to switch off and take care of myself'

'Great to de-stress and so relaxing'

'I would never have done this without the free sessions as I wouldn't prioritise my self-care over other household costs, it's just fabulous, thank you'

3. Sharing Shed & Community Larder

We are currently setting up a space to share unwanted household items, clothes, and surplus food to help reduce waste and to support households with rising costs.

It will be a space to both donate and access food and household goods and will be located in the Old Shop at the Pier Site.

5. Play & Stay Baby and Toddler Group

The Group has continued to meet every Friday morning in term time and it is very well organised and run by REWDT Volunteer Jo Gray. The group has benefitted this year from an REWDT Community Event Grant which has purchased new play equipment and provide a day of dance classes with dance teacher, Charlotte Hoque from North Isles Dance Academy.

We also arranged a day of Paediatric and Adult First Aid Training for individuals to support the group.



6. All Fired Up Christmas Pottery Workshop

This workshop on November 18th was hugely popular with 34 people who attended including children, families and adults who all enjoyed decorating pottery Christmas decorations.



7. Visiting Podiatry Service

Gemma Reid, Podiatrist, continues to visit Rousay every 10-12 weeks throughout the year to support people with foot and nail care and treatment. This is coordinated and organised by Nicky and REWDT fund the ferry travel costs for Gemma.

8. Women's Health Talks

We welcomed Petra Kamarytova, Registered Paediatric, Cranial & Women's Health Osteopath, to Rousay in December and January for her to deliver two of her Women's Health talks on 'A Wee Talk- an introduction to Pelvic Health' and 'The Menopause and Beyond'. These talks were funded by an REWDT Community Event Grant and each talk was attended by 8 women.

Planned Projects for 2024/2025

Nicky is looking forward to continuing to support individuals with her wellbeing work this year and is also planning some more activities and events. Look out for more details through the year with news on upcoming activities such as art sessions, photography, guided walks and more!

Here2Help & Crossroads

We continue to subsidise the cost of services provided by Crossroads and Age Scotland Orkney's Here2Help service, which has reduced the cost of these services to residents. Here2Help has provided paid employment in our community.

One of the challenges is ensuring that we achieve value for money, particularly as usage increases, we are keen that our residents still have access to these services, as without a subsidy, the cost may prove prohibitive. We are delighted to continue our subsidy support for the forthcoming financial year; our subsidy is currently capped at £8 per hour, ensuring that both organisations will be subsidised by exactly the same amount for every hour of care provided in our community, and with our commitment to continue the same annual budget for these services into future years, it means that more residents can access this subsidy. The subsidy is automatically claimed by Age Scotland Orkney or Crossroads, with the service user being billed the balance.

If you would like more information on the services, you can contact Age Scotland Orkney or Crossroads directly, or our Wellbeing Co-Ordinator, Nicky, who is able to provide information on the support available.



The Pier

We enlisted the expertise of a specialised contractor to address the oil contamination issue, and they have been actively involved on-site on multiple occasions. Initially, they established several boreholes to facilitate ongoing monitoring of the contamination levels. Subsequently, they proceeded to break out the concrete floor and excavate a substantial quantity of contaminated soil. More recently, they have implemented a 'vacuum' system to extract vapours from the soil.

The results of the subsequent testing and reports indicate that the remediation efforts have been effective, and we anticipate receiving formal approval that the works have been successful by the summer of 2024.



Remediation work at the Pier, soil testing and test hole drilling.

The Taversoe

The community rallied together when the owners of the Taversoe Hotel sought to change its use, having struggled to sell it as a viable enterprise. Concerns naturally arose about the potential loss of the island's sole hospitality provider, with no immediate alternatives in sight.

Responding to this, a community-wide questionnaire was circulated, followed by a well-attended public meeting that demonstrated strong community engagement. The overwhelming consensus was in favour of the trust exploring the possibility of community ownership.

Securing funding from the Scottish Land Fund enabled us to commission a comprehensive property condition report and conduct thorough business and feasibility planning. The findings from these efforts informed our stage 2 application, which received enthusiastic backing for the purchase of the hotel on behalf of the community.



The Taversoe Hotel

Simultaneously, community members have been actively involved in establishing a Community Benefit Society (CBS), tasked with overseeing the management of the hotel's operations. The CBS is committed to ensuring that the business operates in a manner that benefits the island, with any profits reinvested back into the community. Further details regarding the CBS and the associated share offer will be made available during the summer of 2024.

Transport

Recognising the underutilisation of our Electric Vehicle (EV) as a standalone car-club, we made the proactive decision early in the year to introduce a 'dial-a-ride' service for residents, filling a crucial gap in public transport provision on the island.

With the aim of enhancing accessibility for residents, we successfully secured funding from the Orkney Island Council. This funding facilitated the employment of two drivers and the expansion of the service to include a fortnightly off-island trip. The initiative has been met with enthusiasm and widespread use, evidenced by over 70 passengers carried within the first six months alone.



Dial-a-ride customers awaiting the ferry at Tingwall.

Building upon this success, we have secured additional funding to introduce a larger 7-seat electric vehicle to the island. This expansion will enable us to further diversify and improve the range of services offered in 2024, catering to the evolving needs of the community.

We have also been successful in getting funding for 12 new electric bikes, one electric cargo trike and associated equipment. The bikes are being introduced to promote cost effective, health and environmentally friendly transport for both visitors and residents.

Marina

The new marina project represents a significant long-term aspiration for our community, promising to enhance the area adjacent to the existing pier while unlocking valuable economic opportunities for the island. In March 2024, the trust achieved a milestone by securing funding from the Scottish Land Fund. This funding will enable us to advance feasibility and business plans, thoroughly assessing the project's viability and practicality before taking further steps forward.



Potential location for any new Marina development.

With this crucial support in place, we are able to explore the potential of the marina project, laying the groundwork for its successful realisation and the positive impact it will bring to our community.

Youth Activities



The Rousay Youth Clubs have continued to meet, term-time, over the past year. Our Youth Worker, Alice Mainland, holds two youth club sessions a week – one each for primary and secondary children on Wednesdays and Sundays. Alice works alongside volunteer helper, Alison Mainland, for each session. These sessions are good fun and educational, with the children learning many new skills and enjoying new activities, out with the school environment.

Over the past year, many members of the local community have come along to share their skills with the children. This has included a visit to Braes Woodland, with Ann Chapman, learning rope skills with Stuart Williams, an overview of First Aid with Ian Donaldson and Nurse Practitioner Maggie Drosso and an oral history recording session with Ellen Grieve and Mark & Rebecca from Kolekto. All these sessions were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the children.

Throughout May 2023, both groups wrote short paragraphs of information about various sites on Rousay (e.g. Midhowe Broch and Cairn, the shop, The Brinian Playpark) that would appeal to visiting children. The older children created Rousay-themed wordsearches and a Youth Club logo to go on this leaflet, which brought it to life. This information was formatted into an A4 folded leaflet, as a 'kids guide' for visitors to Rousay, which proved popular over the summer.

Both the younger and older children have enjoyed baking and we have made a variety of recipes throughout the year, ranging from pizzas, tortillas, cupcakes and cookies. We have also focused on art and crafts this year, with the children learning origami, making suncatchers, tealight

holders, paper cards and decorations for community events, making and painting salt dough, clay pots and magnets, and learning how to knit and crochet. We have also played lots of games, including board games, a weekly quiz and sports games/gymnastics.

We are looking forward to more fun sessions throughout 2024!



Climate Festival

In 2022, Orkney held its first Climate Festival and REWDT was proud to be a part of this and continued to be involved in 2023.

We had a good turnout on 14 September for the 'Seeds of the Isles' event - put on by North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme as part of our Highlands & Islands Climate Festival activities.

Alex from NILPS was able to show what native plants we have on Rousay, and explain how they differ from the other isles - and gave plenty of tips for harvesting what we have. It was left to the younger folk to plant some up in readiness for next year!



Thanks to The Craffhub for helping us put on the Highlands & Islands Climate Festival Picnic Day in September and to everyone who came along to make the afternoon so special.

The Craffhub picnic food was wonderful, and they made The Space look very pretty too. Big thanks to Steve for giving a very interesting talk and demonstration as to how to create a worm farm.



Thank you to all who helped make our contribution to the Orkney festival a success.



We held our E-bike launch day on 23 March 2024 which was also funded by the Highlands and Islands Climate Hub. The E-bikes will be used to enhance transport alternatives for visitors and residents alike.



Peedie Lap 5K & Rousay Lap Half-Marathon

Peedie Lap

Thanks to everyone who came along and took part in the Peedie Lap, especially to the children who cheered the finishers over the line and to Denis for being at the fire station and letting the children hear all about being a fireperson and sounding the sirens. A lovely time was had by all.



Start Line Photo by Kayleigh Tipper



First to finish.

2023 Rousay Lap

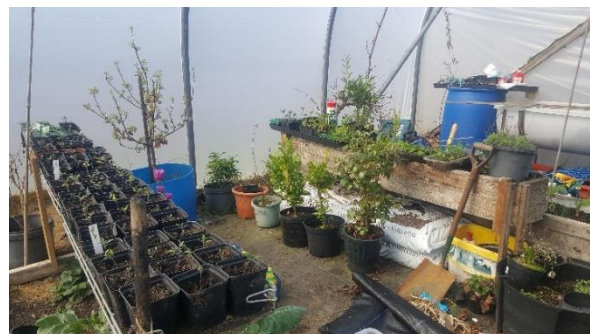
Thanks to all of you who took part, those cheering on and those who were marshals on the day and Brough Bakes for providing the refreshments. Thanks for making it such a terrific day and for your generosity with just under £400 being donated for local Rousay charities. We hope to see you all again for both Fun Laps in 2024, Peedie Lap will be on Sunday 09 June & the Rousay Lap is on Saturday 24 August.



Allotment Association & School Garden

We continue to support the maintenance and running of the allotment site near Rousay Pier.

Members can hire allotment and polytunnel plots for an annual fee, as well as gardening equipment for a small charge.



It is wonderful to see our members growing their own fruit and vegetables, reducing food miles and promoting healthy eating.



Our community garden at Rousay Community School continues to be available for use by the school children to grow a variety of fruit and vegetables in the polytunnel and raised beds.

This is a fantastic learning experience for our young members of the community, which teaches lifelong skills and encourages healthy eating.

Brinian Play Park



The play park at Johnston's Road on Rousay continues to be enjoyed by REW children and visiting children.

The play park is inspected weekly, but if any issues are found, please contact us as soon as possible, so that they can be resolved.

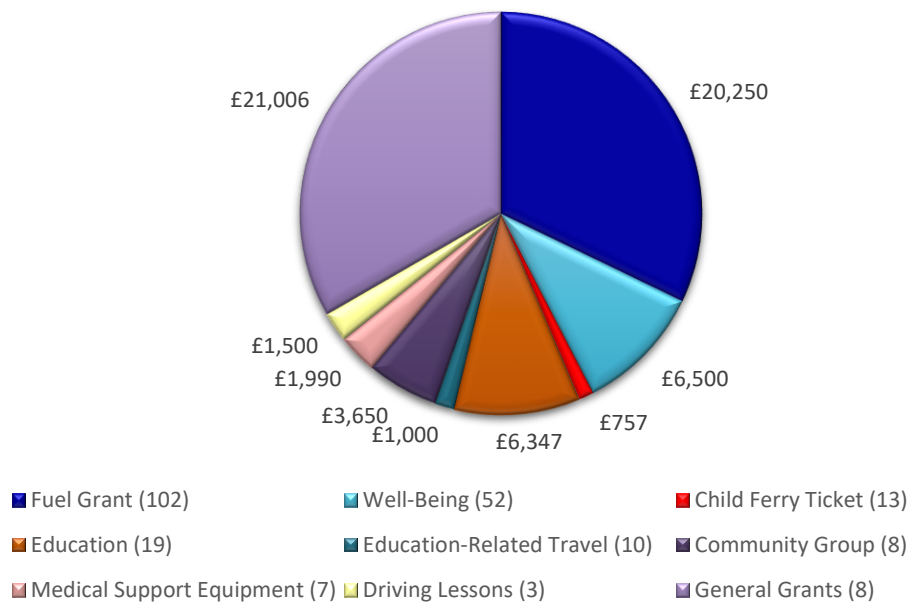
Our Grants Programme

Funding generated from our community turbine enables us to award grants to community groups and individuals, in accordance with our Charitable Aims.

We approved 222 applications from 84 households across Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre this year, resulting in a total of £63,000 being awarded to community groups and individuals between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024. These funds have facilitated the formation of new community groups and allowed existing groups to expand their activities. Individual community members have also benefitted from support with fuel costs, access to well-being activities and new development opportunities.

The successful operation of our community turbine this year enabled us to run two rounds of the Fuel Grant and we received 102 applications over the two rounds, from a total of 66 households. A total of £20,250 in Fuel Grant funding was distributed to assist residents with rising energy costs.

Grant Funding 2023-24 (Total £63,000)



The report does not include details of unused or returned grant funds.



Rousay Ladies Sports Group

Supporting community initiatives remained a top priority this year. Through the allocation of 8 Community Group Grants and 8 General Grants, we proudly supported groups and individuals to organise and host various community events and activities throughout the year.



Rousay School, Rousay Ladies Sports Group and Well-being Pottery day

222

Total grants awarded

£63,000

Total awarded to community groups and individuals

Grants to Individuals:

102 Fuel Crisis Grants (£20,250)

Funding household electricity costs

52 Well-being Grants (£6,500)

Funding well-being activities for 52 individuals

19 Education & Skills Bursaries (£6,347)

Enabling 19 residents to enrol on courses that will result in a qualification

13 Books of Child Ferry Tickets (£757)

Helping 13 children access facilities and activities on Mainland

10 Education-related Travel Grants (£1,000)

Funding travel to educational venues

7 Medical Support Equipment Grants (£1,990)

Funding equipment to support medical conditions

3 Driving Lessons Grant (£1,500)

Supporting 3 resident to learn to drive

'Many thanks again as always for REWDT's continued support.'

'Really appreciate that this fund is there.'

'We are struggling with keeping our house warm. Thank you for the support.'

'...this will really help us get through Christmas and the cold months.'

'It will make a real difference.'

'Thank you. I am really enjoying the course and looking forward to starting some new units in a couple of weeks'

8 General Grants to Community Organisations and Individual Residents

Triangle Club (£2,590)

Funding rent and meal subsidies

UHI Archaeology (£1,400)

Funding towards community activities

Rousay Parent Council/Rousay School (£294)

Funding Outdoor Education in 2023

The Craffhub CIC (£15,000)

Funding contribution to acquisition costs of new premises

Rousay Traditional Dance (£715)

Funding Traditional Dance lessons and a Ceilidh

1st Rousay Rainbows & Brownies (£533)

Funding annual subscription costs

1st Rousay Guides (£145)

Funding annual subscription costs

Rousay Parent Council/Rousay School (£328)

Funding Outdoor Education in Hoy in 2024



Rousay Traditional Dance lessons in full swing

8 Community Group Grants

Grant funding of up to £500 to support community groups

Rousay Community Association (£500)

Funding towards a community Coronation event

Rousay Play & Stay Group (£500)

Funding new equipment to expand the group & supporting community events

1st Rousay Rainbows & Brownies (£500)

Funding resources for new activities

Rousay Parent Council (£500)

Funding resources to run new events and activities

Triangle Club (£500)

Funding a trip to Scapa Flow Museum on Hoy & other events

Island Well-being Projects (£500)

Funding activities and events, including Women's Health Talks

Rousay Ladies Sports (£500)

Funding new equipment

Rousay Sailing Club (£150)

Funding boat building activities



Triangle Club trip to Scapa Flow Museum & Rousay Primary School Outdoor Education

Looking forward to the year ahead, we have listened to your feedback regarding our grant scheme and implemented some changes, which we hope will enable more residents and groups to access grant funding in the future.

We look forward to hearing about your new projects and ideas throughout this year.

REWDT
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST

Grants 2024-25

Well-being 200
Up to £200 per resident, funding activities that improve well-being, can include a book of passenger ferry tickets to travel to well-being activities on Mainland Orkney.

Education & Skills Bursary
Funding up to 90% of course fees, up to £750 per resident.

Community Activity
Funding of up to £1,000 to support community groups and individuals to organise and run community group activities and events.

Driving Lessons
Funding driving lessons for residents, up to a maximum of £750.

Emergency Stay
Funding of up to £100 for accommodation costs due to flight or boat being delayed or cancelled.

There is also a General Grant Fund available for all other grant funding requests.
If you would like further information or to apply, please get in touch

www.rewdt.org/grants grants@rewdt.org 01856 821229

Please remember to submit grant applications for approval before expenditure is made.

Finance

REWDT remains in a strong position financially, however, a lot of our funding is ring-fenced for current and future projects, including work to be done at The Pier site and the Housing projects, both at Johnstons Road and The Manse. Our Board will need to continue to show good financial management to ensure that our community assets can be well looked after into the future.

Our main source of income is usually via an annual gift of profits from REWIRED Ltd., which generates income from the 900kW turbine on Kingarly Hill. We also benefit hugely from our links with established funders, and our staff and Director's work to identify new funds, either to support existing projects or to deliver new ideas. Funding received over the last year, includes:

Supporting Staff Costs

- Island Wellbeing Project – Nicky's role majority funded by VAO
- EV Transport Project – 100% funded by OIC Small Grants Scheme
- Dementia Activities Project – Nicky's role part funded by the Life Changes Trust
- Youth Clubs – Alice's role majority funded by the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS)
- Net Zero Living Digital
- Ranger role - Crown Estate Fund

Supporting Events and Activities

- Menth Health & Wellbeing Project funded by VAO
- Youth Clubs majority funded by the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS)
- Climate Festival funded by the Highlands & Islands Climate Hub

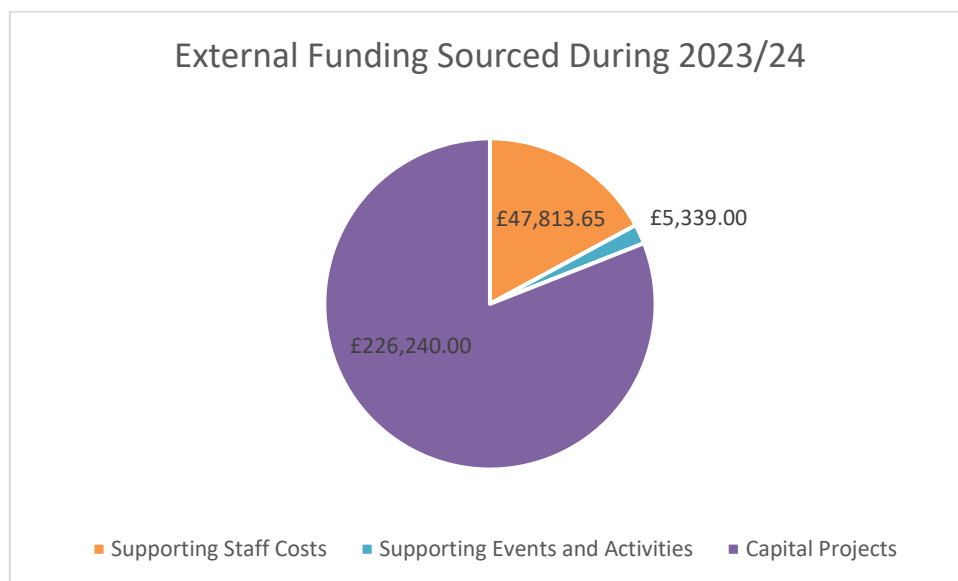
Capital Projects

- Housing Project - The Manse pre-application work funded by Rural Housing Fund
- Pier Store renovations funded by NILPS
- New Office community side fixtures and fittings Highland & Island Enterprise (HIE)
- The Taversoe purchase feasibility funded by the Scottish Land Fund (SLF)
- The Manse purchase feasibility funded by SLF
- E-Bikes project purchases funded by the Energy Savings Trust & the OIC CLLD fund.
- Community Learning Devices funded by Community Device Grant.
- Boat House improvements – Crown Estate Fund.

As the turbine nears the end of its economic life, we will be looking at ways to generate income in future years, with our Trust Manager, Stuart and two of our directors, Mark & Peter, recently attending an online Community Energy Scotland event to discuss this very topic. More information to come over the next year or two which will allow us to continue to deliver community projects and grants, and to maintain our assets for all the community to enjoy in the years to come.

Our two 6kW turbines on Rousay and Wyre continue to generate a small amount of income for REWDT and along with the 900kW turbine the three have provided £457,737.95 of funding this year for the REW DT to invest in our community.

Our audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 are available to download on our website. These are consolidated accounts, which means that income and expenses for REWDT and its trading subsidiaries are included within the same accounts.



Over the last 5 years the REW DT have secured £650,442.03 of external funding for capital and revenue projects and funding to contribute to staff costs.

Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Heritage SCIO

REWDT continued to provide administrative support to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Heritage SCIO plus a cash flow facility for their ongoing heritage projects.

We are delighted to share with you an update direct from the Trustees of REW Heritage SCIO on their activities over the past year:

Much of the past year was spent endeavouring to get two already funded projects up and running again after the delays due to Covid together with the withdrawal of, and the consequent need to replace, the designers and project managers who had initially been engaged.

Renovation of the Rousay Pier Store

The North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme [NILPS] secured the services of NORR to design and manage the restoration of the Rousay Pier Store, which had been purchased by REW DT for use by the Heritage SCIO to exhibit items of heritage interest thereby complementing the display of heritage information in the adjacent Heritage Centre. The necessary consents having been obtained from OIC, tenders were invited, the most competitive of which was still approximately double the cost that had been estimated pre-Covid. REW Heritage is extremely grateful to NILPS for nevertheless being willing and able to fund the project. Sean Stanger commenced work on the project in January 2024 and is expected to complete the renovation by the end of May. Once the renovation is complete, the internal fitting out of the building for the display of heritage items will be undertaken by trustees themselves and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.



Sean Stanger arriving to start work



Outside at the start of work



Inside at the start of work



The building at the start of April 2024

A considerable number of heritage items have already been received from a collection, held at Newhouse, by Jacqui Marwick, an active heritage trustee who sadly passed away a year ago. These were very kindly donated by her daughter Sarah and will form the core of a collection which will, hopefully, be complemented by many contributions from other sources on the island.

Jacqui also bequeathed lots of printed material which trustees are currently itemising and deciding how best to store and make accessible.

Improvement of Viewpoint Facilities

The revised estimated cost of the originally envisaged provision of off-road car parking at the high point of the road between Sourin and Wasbister proved to be unaffordable by the funder [NILPS].

A more modest scheme providing somewhat easier pedestrian access to the Hamilton Finlay sculpture together with a stone-mounted information board showing what can be seen from the viewpoint and with a stone-built bench alongside is currently with OIC Planning. When approved, tenders will be sought for completion of the project well before the end of 2024.



Information Map

NILPS is also funding a new, large map of Rousay to replace the one currently on the outside of the waiting room building. To prevent this

map dating rapidly, it was agreed that the map should show only information that was unlikely to change. Additional information would be provided inside the waiting room in a form that could be readily kept fully up to date.

Events

Once again in 2023 the REW Heritage SCIO was successful in our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for activities that supported the two archaeological digs on Rousay at Skail Farm & Swandro.

Unfortunately, the funding only came through the week the digs opened, which did not allow enough time to put on the various activities planned. We did manage to arrange for a visit from our friends Keith & Alan as 19th Century pirates during the Skail Farm open Day.

The funds received will be put to activities during the last Swandro excavation dates in the summer of 2024.



Pirates at Skail Farm



Items from the 'Tomb in a Box' kit kindly donated by UHI. On display in the Rousay Heritage Centre.

Stepping Back in Time Booklet

Last year we had external funding to update the Stepping Back in Time booklet and send a copy to all residents. We have purchased (using donations generously gifted by visitors to the Heritage Centre) additional copies of this booklet, please ask at the REW DT offices if you have not received your copy.



Office

Following over a year of operating without a designated workspace, we were thrilled to announce the successful installation of our new cabin in the Pier Restaurant car park. This facility provides our staff with a dedicated area to work and convene, easily accessible to all.



The cabin being delivered, and fully installed.

Moreover, the cabin features a community room, allowing us to host visiting organisations. Already, we've had the pleasure of welcoming guests such as the Orkney Island Council and Business Gateway. Additionally, the space is available for use by community groups, accommodating activities ranging from Sunday prayers to first aid training sessions and musical evenings.

Looking ahead, we plan to enhance the cabin's amenities by introducing a public-access computer, printer/scanner, and complimentary public Wi-Fi. We anticipate further development in its utilisation and intend to establish information points catering to both visitors and residents.



REWDT Office.

Our Boards

REWDT

Kayleigh Tipper, Chair
 Hugh Mainland, Vice Chair
 Alison Mainland, Treasurer
 Peter Roebuck
 Callum Flaws
 Carole Maguire
 Grant Mainland
 Eric Shortland
 Richard Tipper
 Julie Akid
 Mark Hull (co-opted)

REWIRED

Grant Mainland, Chair
 Peter Roebuck, Vice Chair
 Laura French
 Ben Hicks
 Mark Hull
 Victoria Quinn
 Carlyne Tunbridge

REW DT Board Meeting Director Attendance

Since the 31 March 2024, REWDT has held 8 Board Meetings.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Number of meetings attended</u>
Kayleigh Tipper	8
Hugh Mainland	2
Alison Mainland	7
Peter Roebuck	5
Carole Maguire	4
Grant Mainland	4
Callum Flaws	4
Eric Shortland	7
Richard Tipper	7
Julie Akid	6
Mark Hull (Co-opted)	6

Some Directors were unable to attend meetings due to their work commitments.

Our Staff

REWDT

Stuart Williams, Trust Manager
 Helen Castle, Company Secretary + Administration & Finance Officer
 Ellie Roberts, Grants Officer
 Nicky Jacques, Dementia Activities & Wellbeing Co-Ordinator (part funded by VAO)
 Alice Mainland, Youth Worker (part funded by North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme)

REWIRED

Laura French, Turbine Manager
 Jess Tunbridge, Turbine Responder

