



BUCKHAVEN

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

Corra's work to support community priorities in Buckhaven in 2021 included:

- **Outdoor Learning Sessions** - Delivered by Smart Play Network with Primary 4 and 5 students at Buckhaven Primary School. Sessions were once a week for a whole term in the Globe Garde, Buckhaven, which Community-Led Environmental Action for Regeneration (CLEAR) gave access to.
- **Leven Connectivity Project** - Corra joined a range of local partners in a series of workshops, led by Sustrans to co-produce a Behaviour Change Community Action Plan as part of the Leven Connectivity Project for the development of the River Leven pathways to encourage more activity.
- **Youth Engagement and community based consultation** - Corra commissioned a local worker to engage with young people to develop opportunities for children and young people to have a voice and a platform in their community within Buckhaven.
- **Food distribution from Buckhaven Baptist Church** - weekly emergency food provision supporting around 100 families a week

Keep reading to find out more about what's been happening in Buckhaven...

SMART PLAY NETWORK OUTDOOR LEARNING SESSIONS, GLOBE GARDEN BUCKHAVEN



Corra worked alongside SPN to bring about a term of outdoor learning sessions in Buckhaven during the summer term of 2021.

CLEAR Buckhaven generously offered the use of the Globe Garden which is situated just across the road from the Primary School, so was an ideal location as the staff and children could walk to the garden. Corra funded the purchase of outdoor waterproof coats and wellies so that all the children were well equipped for whatever the Scottish summer had to throw at them. The Buckhaven Primary School Parent Teacher Council were also involved and supported the children to use spades, forks and other gardening equipment.

The text below has been adapted from the evaluation carried out by the class teacher and illustrate what a brilliant project this has been. The various positive outcomes relating to these sessions are really outstanding.

Primary 4 and 5 were fortunate enough to join Sharon for the whole of Term 4, after lockdown for outdoor learning. This has been a brilliant experience and exactly what the children have needed after being in the house for a long period of time not being able to socialise.

- Engaged with learning (more so than in class)
- Learned new skills and motivated to take part e.g. digging, planting, helping to build a bird feeder etc
- This experience has allowed the children to build on their social skills
- Learned about nature and the environment around them
- Developed social skills which they were then able to transfer into the classroom in an informal setting.
- Learned to share with other children
- Communicate with others and build their resilience
- More eager to come to school
- More engaged with her learning (several concrete data collected to prove this)
- Enjoyed working independently
- Learned new skills
- Learns best when active and given that opportunity
- Recently took their family to show what the class have created and do at the 'Globe Garden'
- A child who is not confident in the classroom and finds it difficult to process information – thrives in this environment

P4/5 Teacher Evaluation

These are only a few examples of the many benefits the Globe Garden has provided and what Sharon has shared with us. It has been an extremely fulfilling and enjoyable experience. Sharon was adaptable to any changes and checked in each week how to develop onto the next week. I was asked regularly how to link it to what we were learning at school and the curriculum. For example, we were learning about money and fractions and so Sharon organised a till, fantastic materials to create a pizza thinking about quarters and halves. The children then learned through free play about money. Many of the children learned many problem-solving skills, for example when creating different dens. Sharon had a lovely nature with the children and had a range of different fun and engaging activities for the children to choose from.

Sharon supplied us with a huge amount of excellent support materials to support the learning and give choice for the class. The class were extremely enthusiastic about the Globe Garden and were devastated when it was coming to an end. They have asked for this to continue next year which I think implies the positive impact this experience has had and the effort Sharon has put in.

LEVEN CONNECTIVITY PROJECT – BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

During 2021, a wide range of partners from the third sector, community groups, school, police and local authority met regularly as a steering group to co-produce a Behaviour Change Community Action Plan as part of the Leven Connectivity Project. This was supported by the Sustrans Communities Team and proposes actions that encourage more people to walk, wheel and cycle along the River Leven.

The actions complement the proposed active travel network in the Levenmouth area. The Leven Connectivity Project recognises the importance of a mixture of both improving physical infrastructure and of developing community led solutions.

The steering group met regularly over several months and took an asset-based approach, considering what the community assets are and how best to address the barriers to walking, wheeling and cycling in the Levenmouth communities. Partners supported wider community engagement to represent as many views as possible. E.g. engaged with young people.

A list of actions was compiled from the sessions and was prioritised. These are the top 5 actions – the full list can be found in the Behaviour Change Community Action Plan.

As well as developing actions, the Steering Group emphasised the importance of four considerations, which need to be considered alongside implementation. They are:

Local first: Wherever possible, the project should use local resources and businesses rather than bringing in outside organisations.

Actions identified

1. Create an umbrella group with community representation at its core and fostering partnership working.
2. Develop and expand existing outdoor spaces (e.g. beach, parks) to create zones for a variety of uses and opportunities.
3. Promote and expand existing path network, make it accessible and clear.
4. Create a community hub, an indoor space with a café and toilet facilities that is multifunctional and inter-generational (e.g. provides bikes etc.).
5. Develop a community 'code of conduct' (How will we use cycle ways, walkways and spaces).

Involving and including young people: Involvement will lead to positive experiences and a greater sense of pride, belonging and ownership.

Using what is already available: Activities take place while planning for delivery is happening.

Develop community: The delivery of the action plan should be by the community and for the community.

After the Action Plan was created, Corra and other key members have continued to meet as a steering group, facilitated by Coalfields Regeneration Trust. The meetings have been moved to evenings to enable community members to attend and the group is focusing on how to raise awareness of the plan, how to support the community to engage in its implementation and how to access the resources to implement the actions. Corra has helped facilitate the planning of a series of community events that have been held to raise awareness and engage with community members.

BUCKHAVEN CHURCH FOOD PROVISION

The ongoing pandemic has meant that the need for the community response has continued from what had been established in the early months of 2020.

The emergency food provision organised by the Baptist Church continues to hand out up to 100 food parcels on a weekly basis to local families and this just goes to show the depth of the difficulties faced by the community at this time.



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TOGETHER?

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT - BY RACHEL-JANE MORRISON

This piece of work was established after comments were made by a young person who joined a community conversation in November 2020. During the session, they said that they felt listened to at school but not in the community and that they were not aware of groups or opportunities for this to happen.

The engagement period took place during 2021, which proved to be challenging due to factors such as, activities and groups not happening because of Coronavirus and it was not possible to meet with young people in school due to the restrictions.

This limited the amount of possible results or actions, however the cultural observations and further understanding of the 'lay of the land' was incredibly insightful and rich. My research saw me talk to people as young as 8 and to others who live, work and play in Buckhaven as old as 70+

The young people filled me with hope and their resilience to the changes and hardships they faced during a year of lockdown was nothing short of inspiring. Many of the conversations I had took place at Bats Woods - courtesy of Duncan Zuill facilitating. The young people I met there were disappointed in their lack of options and struggled to name anything they engage with outside school, specifically in Buckhaven.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Over the past two years, throughout the pandemic we have all been working differently. As we transition back into communities it will be important for time and space to be given to rebuild relationships and allow for people to connect up together and understand the changed circumstances and environment we are now all living in.



Community
Co-ordinator
Louisa Cocris

Louisa@corra.scot
07860855022

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Develop growing space with National Trust for Scotland
- Support the Buckhaven Family Cookery programme, taking place at Buckhaven Baptist Church kitchen
- Work alongside the Buckhaven Bakers to encourage a wider section of the local community to come on-board
- Support the development of Youth-led grantmaking with Levenmouth Academy

PEOPLE IN PLACE - MOVING FORWARDS

People in Place continue to work alongside 8 communities in Scotland, supporting local people to connect, collaborate on ideas and take action to create positive change. The local activity and learning from each community help shape plans for the place, the wider programme and to influence policy.

2021 was another challenging year, with communities continuing to be impacted by Coronavirus. Community groups, voluntary organisations and local authorities worked together to support individuals to transition through – and move towards recovery from the pandemic. Corra has listened to communities to understand the challenges and provide support as best we can. Across each community the themes of participation, support, money, relationships, and space are most evident with specific challenges relating to food insecurity, access to community space, mental health and wellbeing, and financial concerns.

As communities strive to recover from the impact of Coronavirus and look towards healing, support for health is of particular importance. Corra is currently working with local Health and Social Care Partnerships to identify how best to help community members access the support they need locally, while focusing on preventative approaches. Corra is also working alongside Healthcare Improvement Scotland to test and develop community-led approaches to improving health outcomes.

In 2022, Corra will continue to help communities and partners collectively understand, identify opportunities to influence and to change local systems to better support community aspirations and need. People in Place is focused on supporting and developing the enabling factors that will allow communities to grow and build forward better, such as, accessing and developing space, community-led grant making, building capacity, and sharing learning. This will involve balancing time and space for collective reflection with supporting momentum behind community ideas as we all continue to transition from the pandemic'. To reinforce this, an Idea into Action accelerator approach has been designed to direct funding and resources to what is needed in each of the communities with additional resource allocated to capacity building support and the development of space.



The Corra Foundation

Riverside House, 502 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3AF

e: hello@corra.scot t: 0131 444 4020 www.corra.scot

(The) Corra Foundation is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC009481) and is also a company limited by guarantee (No SC096068). Fortify Social Enterprise CIC is a community interest company registered in Scotland and is also a company limited by guarantee (No SC507457). (The) Corra Foundation was previously called Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.