

Langlees Annual Update 2024

About Langlees

In the west of Falkirk lies Langlees, a community with a strong local identity and a deep sense of connection to its neighbours in Bainsford. Together, they share Bainsford Hall, which has recently come under community control. The community has a great play park which was upgraded in 2024 in addition there is also a play park and Muga down at the Coe Park, surrounded by great woodland walks. These outdoor spaces play a central role in local life.

Langlees also boasts community growing spaces, where residents can come together to cultivate and share, further enhancing the area's vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. With ample outdoor spaces, Langlees provides the perfect environment for families and individuals to relax, exercise, and enjoy nature.

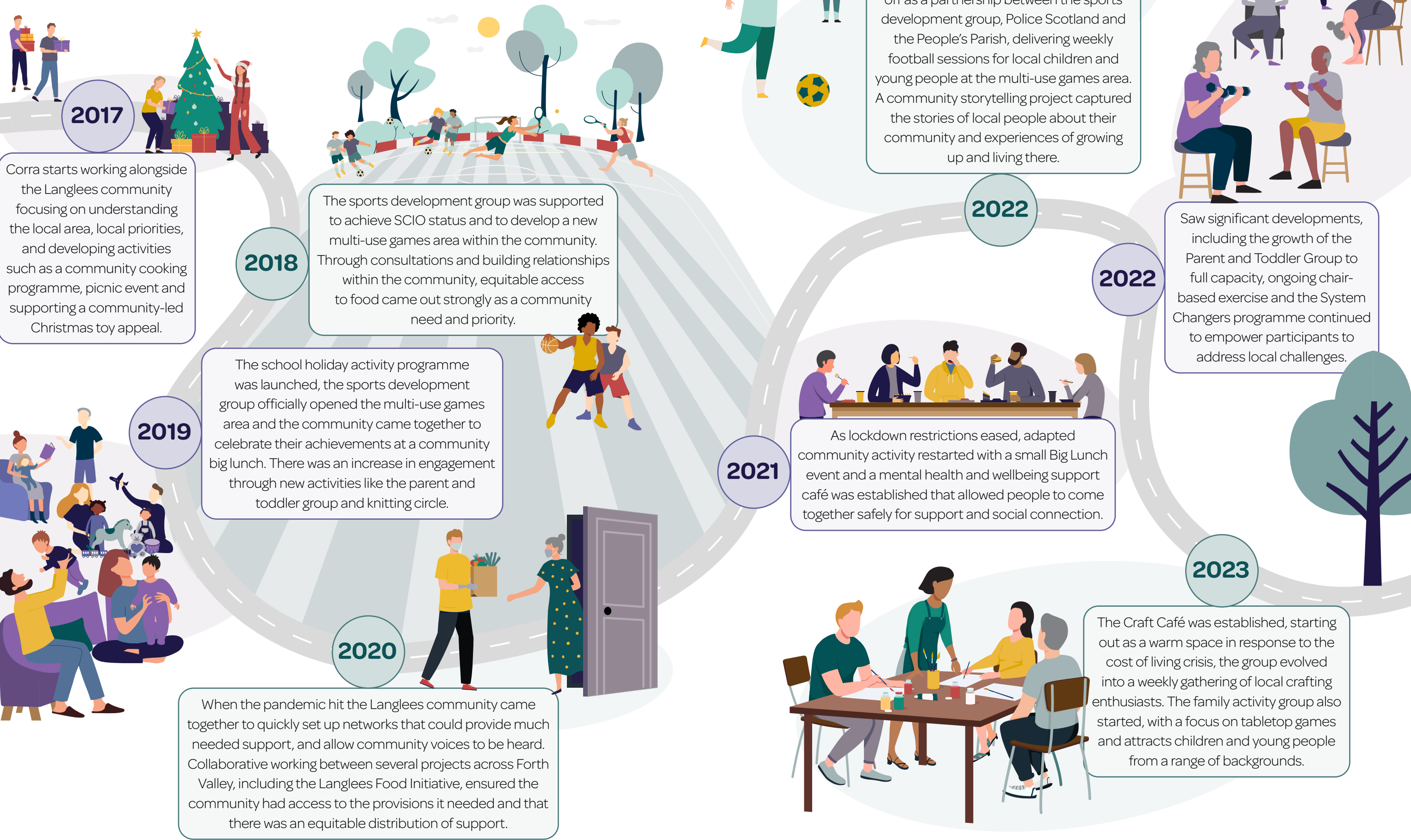
Residents take immense pride in their neighbourhood, with strong, supportive relationships and a community spirit that is both lively and united. The area is also home to excellent local schools, making it a great place for families. Whether through regular community activities or simply enjoying the green spaces, Langlees fosters a true sense of belonging, where everyone feels part of something special.



CORRA
FOUNDATION
voice • power • change

Langlees timeline

Corra's work alongside the community in Langlees began in June 2017. You can delve into the detail in each annual update, but here's a taster of what the community has done since 2017. For more information on each year visit www.corra.scot/Langlees



Langlees big ideas for positive change in 2024

Bainsford Community Hall

Bainsford Community Hall has continued to thrive throughout 2024, proving its worth as a key community asset for Bainsford and Langlees. Once under threat from demolition, the hall has been transformed into a vibrant hub thanks to the dedication of its management committee, volunteers and the wider community.

The hall's journey over the past year reflects not just its physical transformation but also its growing importance as a space for connection, creativity, and support. The management committee has been working tirelessly to expand the hall's offerings while navigating ongoing challenges.

Regular activities such as the wellbeing group, warm space café, fitness classes and activity-based children's groups like the Boys and Girls Brigade have continued to bring the community together. These sessions offer more than just activities – they provide a sense of belonging and an opportunity for the community to reconnect with the hall and reframe it back to the community asset it once was.

The hall's warm space café and craft cafés have been particularly impactful during challenging times, offering not only a wee bowl of warm soup but also "companionship for anyone seeking warmth and connection" (Andrew Sarle). These activities highlight how a simple gesture can create and deepen the connections within a community.

A notable addition in 2024 was the opening of the Hidden Treasure charity shop within the hall. Operating seven days per week, it not only offers affordable items but also contributes towards the hall's sustainability – all while providing local volunteering opportunities. This initiative has been warmly embraced by the community and is helping to fund ongoing community engagement.

While plans for a community café remain in their early stages, they represent an exciting vision for the future – a space where the community can gather informally over a cuppa. The committee remains committed to efforts and approaches that enhance service provision within the hall.

Wilma, a community volunteer, reflected on the changes she has seen across the community over her own lifetime. She has seen an increase in people moving into the community who do not have existing ties and connections locally. She shared her desire to connect with all of these people and expressed her wish that a way could be identified for these connections to form and strengthen.

Bainsford Community Hall's story is one of resilience and community-led transformation. It shows how a community space can evolve into something much greater than bricks and mortar – reframing it as a place where connections are made, friendships are formed, and lives enriched. The hall and its committee are an example of what can be achieved through collaboration and collective vision.



Bainsford Hall: A community asset revitalised

Once on the brink of demolition, Bainsford Community Hall has become a vibrant community hub. The communities of Bainsford and Langlees face significant socioeconomic challenges, with high deprivation levels and ongoing cuts to services, but thanks to the tireless efforts of the Bainsford Hall Community Group (BHCG) there is changing happening in Bainsford.

Overview:

BHCG is a SCIO formed at the end of 2019 to save Bainsford Community Hall from demolition. The group consists of five local trustees with diverse personal and professional backgrounds.

Purpose:

BHCG's purpose is to empower people by enhancing community spirit, reducing social isolation, and providing accessible spaces for recreation and development. Their work has transformed the hall into a lifeline for many in an area facing significant socioeconomic challenges.

Future:

The hall requires significant capital investment due to decades of neglect. Estimated costs for making the building suitable over the next 10 years range from £270k to £480k. Immediate needs include roof replacement, entrance ramp upgrades and work to make the building water tight.

Investment: Between the summer of 2022 and 2024, BHCG were successful in securing funding for renovation phases:

- Phase 1a & b: Renovations (internal and external) including upgrading insulation and creating a pop-up café areas, funded by a Community Choices Place-Based Capital Grant from Falkirk Council.
- Phase 2a: Raised beds and community garden installed, supported by the Dandelion Project and Go! Youth Trust
- Phase 2b: Energy upgrades with installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the Scottish Power Energy Network Net Zero Fund
- Phase 3: Upgraded toilet facilities, funded by another Community Choices Place-Based Capital Grant from Falkirk Council.
- Phase 4: Hall renovation and extension to accommodate new partners, funded by Bainsford Parish Church

The planned renovations will enable BHCG to expand services for children and young people, provide a permanent space for a community café and ensure the hall is fully accessible for the whole community.

Impact:

Extensive community support is evident from past consultation and ongoing engagement. The hall's revival has been well-received, with community members appreciating its role in tackling social isolation and enhancing the sense of community locally.



Bainsford & Langlees

Our vision is to create a vibrant, inclusive community where wellbeing thrives through active engagement and thoughtfully designed spaces.



Community Priorities

Spaces and Places

Affordable indoor spaces	Develop and maintain spaces that are accessible and affordable for community activity	- Increased participation in activities across indoor and outdoor spaces - Higher occupancy rates within indoor spaces and increased usage of safe outdoor areas - Growth in the number of community gardens and greenspaces being used by community
Safe outdoor spaces	Create and enhance outdoor areas that are safe and welcoming for the community	
Community growing spaces	Increase the availability of gardens and greenspaces for community growing projects	

Health and Wellbeing

Achieve food equity	Ensure whole community has access to healthy and affordable food	- Reduction in food insecurity and increased access to healthy food options - Increased participation in activities that promote positive wellbeing and improved mental and physical health
Improve mental and physical health	Support projects that promote mental and physical health and wellbeing within the community	
Increase environmental sustainability	Embrace practices that protect our environment and address climate change	

Learning and Development

Increase access to educational opportunities	Expand educational opportunities, formal and informal, for community members	- Increased participation in educational projects and higher literacy rates within community - Growth in the number of volunteers and volunteer-led activity - Enhanced participation in skill-sharing and building projects
Increase volunteering	Promote and support volunteering opportunities that benefit the community	
Enhance skill development and knowledge sharing	Increase resources and platforms for people to build skills and share expertise with others	

Increased partnership working
Collaborative funding bids for community-led activity

Progress

Achievements

Community asset transfer by Bainsford hall committee
Community growing at Langlees primary school

Partners

Mainly Play - parent toddler group
Made by the Forge - family group
Craft Café
Snowdrop café
Community football group



How we'll work together

We are committed to working together with community members and organisations as equal partners. By actively listening to and valuing the community's voice, we aim to co-create solutions that align with the needs and goals of both the community and the supporting organisations. Our collaborative approach ensures that the priorities in our plan are met through shared responsibility, mutual respect, and a unified vision for a thriving, inclusive community.



Plans

Bainsford / Langlees community action plan
Local resilience plan
Bainsford Langlees children and young people neighbourhood plan



Get involved

Contact:
Pop into the hall and ask for the Bainsford Community Hall committee or email:
Bainsfordhallcommunitygroup@gmail.com

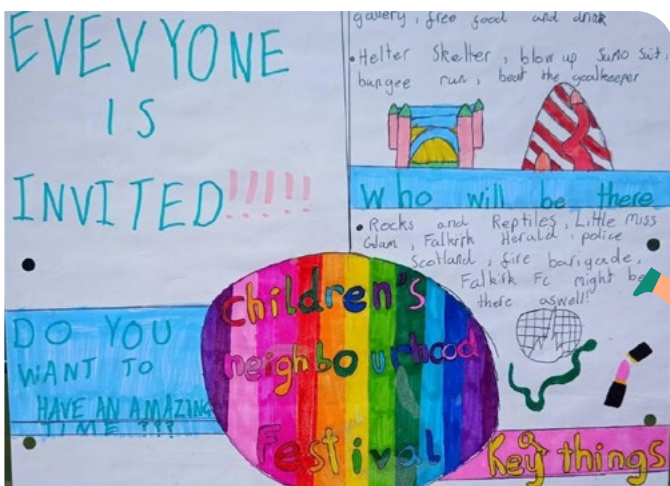


Enhanced Community Activity

2024 has seen a year of growth and collaboration in Langlees, with community-led activities creating connection, creativity, and resilience. Through the dedication of local groups, volunteers, and partners, the community has developed into a vibrant hub of activity addressing local needs.

The past year has been marked by a variety of regular activities that bring people together. The Craft Café continues to provide a welcoming space for creativity and companionship, while community football sessions engage young people fortnightly, offering both recreation and social connection. The Snowdrop Café, established to support those experiencing grief, has created a safe space for reflection and peer support.

New developments include the Mainly Play toddler group, which has quickly become a favourite for families, and the bereavement cooking group, designed to help people build friendships while learning to cook and eat together. These efforts reflect a thoughtful approach to addressing loneliness and promoting inclusivity within the community. Large events like the Children's Neighbourhood Festival, co-created by local children, highlighted the power of youth engagement in shaping the community's future. Environmental workshops through the Climate Forth project led to the co-creation of a 10-year Climate Action Plan, ensuring sustainability is a priority.



The year also brought significant achievements in securing funding and investment. The Bainsford Hall Committee secured over £89,000 for essential renovations, including toilet upgrades and solar panels. These improvements ensure that community spaces are accessible and environmentally sustainable.

Langlees' story is one of determination and collaboration. From supporting vulnerable groups to creating spaces for joy and connection, showing that positive change happens when we listen to communities – the people who call Scotland's neighbourhoods home.



Snowdrop Café: A welcoming space for connection and support

The Snowdrop Café has quickly become a cherished space for the communities of Bainsford and Langlees; offering warmth, companionship, and a sense of belonging. Established with the aim of tackling loneliness and social isolation, the café provides a safe and inclusive space where everyone is respected and valued, regardless of their personal circumstances.

The café operates as a free community hub, with a donation box available to support the running costs. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the café, helping with everything from preparing hot drinks to organising activities and welcoming people as they come in. This shared effort has created a genuine sense of ownership among those who attend.

The Snowdrop Café model was developed by Strathcarron Hospice and the group received support from Jayne Lamond in the set up stages. Partnerships with organisations such as the hospice, Alzheimer's Scotland, and the local GPs have been instrumental in shaping the café's activities. Activities are inspired by the ideas of those that attend and range from informal chats to group discussions and creative sessions.

One of the defining features of the café is its focus on building relationships. Whether it's someone living with dementia, coping with grief, or simply

seeking friendship, the Snowdrop Café offers a space where everyone can feel seen and supported. As one attendee described, "I've just popped into the wee snowdrop café... what a lovely wee community café, run by the nicest ladies!"

While still in the early stages, the Snowdrop Café has already made a meaningful impact. Its success lies in its simplicity: a welcoming space where people can come together, share experiences, and form lasting connections. It's an example of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference in strengthening community connections and support wellbeing.



Where are the opportunities to make positive change?

Scotland's communities need funders, including the public sector, to provide support and resource in ways that work for them. In Langlees, funding has enabled transformative projects like key upgrades to Bainsford Hall. These investments have strengthened local spaces and created opportunities for community-led activity to flourish and has been instrumental in securing and sustaining engagement and inclusivity of activity.

Positive change happens when we listen to communities – the people who call Scotland's neighbourhoods home. In Langlees, listening to the community has driven the development of new community activity, such as the Snowdrop Cafe, which addresses sensitive community needs like grief and loneliness. Collaborative working with partners like Strathcarron Hospice ensure these activities are delivered in a way that allows for meaningful connections to develop within the community.

Place-based working centres the knowledge of residents to drive positive changes in their communities. The Langlees plan on a page highlights the importance of community voice in identifying community priorities and empowers the community to shape how these priorities are best addressed, utilising local knowledge has led to the creation of a plan that truly reflects local needs and aspirations.

Neighbourhoods, in all parts of Scotland, should be thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of the people who call them home. In Langlees, thoughtful planning is evident in activities like the community football sessions and bike maintenance days, which create inclusive spaces for diverse groups from across the community. Since coming into community control, the Bainsford Hall upgrades have ensured accessible facilities are available for the community.



What next?

From March 2026, our relationship with communities will change. We are supporting community leaders to establish their priorities, plans, and partnerships to sustain community-led change. We will walk alongside community leaders through the Community Leadership Collective ensuring that communities have the skills, connections, and support to take their ideas into action. We will work to ensure that Scotland's communities are supported and resourced in ways that work for them. Throughout 2025, we will support the Langlees Community to realise their plan, with specific actions including:

- Support the delivery of Langlees Plan on a Page.
- Support community leaders to develop skills and build networks through Corra's Community Leadership Collective.
- Support new and existing groups to establish and keep going and develop their ideas.





www.corra.scot

(The) Corra Foundation is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC009481) and is also a company limited by guarantee (No SC096068).

Corra Foundation,
Office Suite 30 Pure Offices
4 Lochside Way, Edinburgh EH12 9DT
e: hello@corra.scot | t: **0131 444 4020**