



An Approach to Asset Based Community development in Northumberland

The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend. Benjamin Disraeli

Whittingham coffee morning



“isolation, getting people out the house... I think there’s been a much greater emphasis, implicitly rather than explicitly, on mental rather than physical health... we’ve had a lot of people for whom it’s been get out the house, socialise... avoid being isolated...”

Whittingham Village no longer has a pub, shop or Post Office. The grant was used to start a coffee and lunch drop in using the church.

Beadnell Gardening Club



The grant was used to set up a gardening club. The club has sold many plants grown from seed and currently have potatoes for sale with tomatoes to follow soon. The money raised from these sales helps to keep the garden going for seasons to come.

Grace Darling Skiff

“...if you can get a few people having a few hours pleasure it's worth every penny..”



The grant started a skiff building group in Beadnell with the group fundraising for the remaining materials and trailer. The Skiff has taken nearly a year to build with over 1000 hours. The core group of 7 men aged 60-80 did the majority of the work with local residents putting in extra hours. The Skiff will be launched in February 2018 and will join up with the other northern and Scottish villages in friendly competitions. There is also Interest to form community rowing teams.

Bamburgh in Bloom



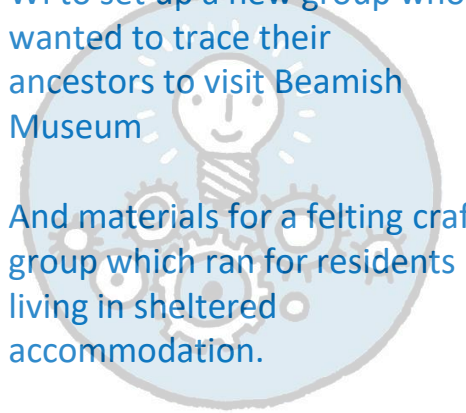
The grant was used to buy bulbs for Bamburgh Garden Guild, who with the help of members of the community, planted spring bulbs at the entrance to the village. The bulb planting was to promote Bamburgh Village Show and to encourage residents, second home owners and holiday let owners to take a pride in planting up their front gardens. It was very successful and the many visitors posting photos on Facebook leading to hundreds of comments.

Bamburgh craft club



The grants funded Bamburgh WI to set up a new group who wanted to trace their ancestors to visit Beamish Museum

And materials for a felting craft group which ran for residents living in sheltered accommodation.



Berwick Fusliers



The grant funded a coach trip to Newcastle of the Berwick Branch of Fusiliers Association to celebrate St George's Day. They had not been able to attend this event before.

"...some old soldiers went off to Newcastle on the bus... the opportunity for those guys to make that journey... that was fantastic, all these old boys, some of them don't get out the house very often, certainly don't get together as a group... there were conversations had that hadn't been had for... years, memories made... it's really hard to look at the benefits that those guys will have got from that day and... describe them terribly well... it's certainly impossible to quantify them but I would have no doubt for the people who went... the effect of that will have lasted months... if not longer..."

Residents association - Community Cohesion



The grant was used to support Clifftops Residents Group in Spittal to run two events, a family fun day and family disco. It funded the hire of games and animals that many of the children had not seen or experienced before and contributed towards the food bill!

Glendale Amateur Boxing Club



The grant was used to hire a mini bus to take 12 members of Glendale Amateur Boxing Group to a professional gym and to meet professional boxers in Manchester to learn how they could improve.



Residents Group -Tree planting



The community established a new group called Priors Park Residents Group. The grant funded trees which were planted at a small street party to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday.



Nature group



The grant supported the red squirrel group at Chatton. Here they are learning to deploy traps for grey squirrels and therefore preserving the reds squirrels.

Belford Sewing Bee



Belford Sewing Bee has gone from strength to strength – attracting people from quite a wide area. The first grant paid for the initial room hire and some publicity. A second grant bought a sewing machine so that those without their own transport had a machine to use on the premises. Here are just two of the results!

Wooler Community Event



The grant helped to fund the lights switch on for Christmas in Wooler

Glendale Craft Group



The grant help set up the Glendale Craft and Support Group which so far has 20 members from the Glendale area, Chatton, Belford, Seahouses and as far afield as Rothbury. It was initially set up to help fill the gap left by the withdrawal of a mental health support service. It provides a safe space for vulnerable people in the community. It is an opportunity to meet together and talk.

U3A events

"...ours is a new group... and when we started, we thought... I think there were going to be fourteen people from the U3A coming... and at that first meeting there were twenty-nine... and the next meeting there were forty... so it's grown a bit... it's proving to be a really... stimulating session for everyone... the interest was wonderful... new people are joining the U3A because of that..."



The grants supported a number of activities of the U3A (University of the Third Age) including the establishment of a Wine appreciation group – and aren't they learning a lot! And the second is the Wooler stall at a Winter Warm Up event – here was an opportunity for having a go at crafts and gardening.



Shop planters in Wooler



One of the traders in Wooler High Street had the idea of brightening up the scene for the summer. She promoted the idea amongst other traders and a range of troughs and planters appeared – funded, tended and watered by local businesses. The troughs were made by Wooler Community Workshop – which was also a recipient of a small grant to promote the offer they make to older people.

Yeavingering Players



A small grant was given to the newly formed Yeavingering Players and just look at the results! Yeavingering is one of the fells near Wooler and also (using the Saxon Gefrin) the site of a very early settlement in the foothills of the Cheviot Hills.

Glendale Tap Dancing Group



A small grant funded Glendale Festival Tap Dancing Group who performed at the Christmas Fair – such a varied age groups and the choreography and imagination that went into the penguin costumes was super – lots of proud parents applauding in the background!

Glendale Festival



A small grant helped to underpin and second day for this annual Glendale festival and a range of new activities. The organisers had accounted for everything except a drenching – didn't stop this lot having a great time as part of the duck race!



Glendale Festival



A whole range of traditional games and races were introduced to the Glendale Festival this year and everyone will recognise the egg and spoon race, the three legged race – who's more determined, father or son!

Wool in Wooler



The grant supported the Wool in Wooler knitting group where a group of women come together to explore their creativity, imaginations and sharing of ideas. The group has gone from strength to strength so much so that they have been asked to run monthly instead of bimonthly sessions.

“...Wool in Wooler... they have monthly meetings of between 10 and 15 people... a couple of our ladies tell me it is the highlight of their month, they enjoy the camaraderie and the chance to get together as they’re quite socially isolated living in remote places...”

Wooler Whittlers



This was an opportunity for a the Wooler Whittlers, new group to try something different – and in partnership with the local school, using their premises and kit - we think they were making wooden knives – probably for butter! Such concentration!!

Tennis for young people & Rusty Rackets



The grant funded tennis for young people which has been a tremendous success as you can see, bringing a whole range of young people in to regular attendance and exercise. It's been extended more recently into Rusty Rackets for older people.

"...the junior coaching... once we've got the children into tennis... we hope to keep them... if you can get them when they're five or six years of age, to enjoy tennis, you tend to have got them then... and you try and keep a hold of them... if you can keep the children here, doing their sport, and getting them to enjoy what they're doing... you've got them... being sporty for the rest of their lives..."



Glendale Geology Group



“...it’s an inspirational group, she’s an inspirational teacher... and she’s taught us a lot about our own area... so we know when we go out... why the hills that shape, why there’s that deposit in the river... really good, and stimulating... well worth every penny...”



The grant helped set up a geology group which has been amazing – starting in a classroom format, its expanded into outings to geological features in the landscape to explore further the class based learning and increasing group cohesion and interest.

Ukulele Group



The grant funded a ukulele group which ran a year's worth of classes for Middle School pupils in Wooler. These are some of the events that the group performed at.

