



The Richmond Fellowship
Scotland

**PARTICIPATORY
FUNDING
NEWSLETTER**

Edition 2

Central Region Having Fun



GLASGOW EAST GATHERING GROUP



Highland Fling

Allotment

The right choice for support

Central Region Participatory Funding

By Dale Houston



The second edition already? Yes! Another chance to showcase another three of our successful bids turning their plans into reality.

The fantastic photographs and accompanying testimonies really capture and demonstrate how successful the process was within Central Region for the people involved and the diversity of our successful bids. The photographs from the Balmoral Gate Highland Fling are hugely atmospheric and Janet's accompanying testimony of steering group involvement, the preparation for her bid pitch and the confidence she gained from the process demonstrates the huge benefits that can be achieved from the Participatory Funding approach.

Comments from others on the trip are fantastic and the photographs truly lift off the page to give a flavour of the trip! My continued thanks go out to all in the steering group who made our approach so much FUN and have continued to champion our approach while encouraging others to become involved.

Hopeman Avenue's project is a great example of a bid that also caught the imagination of individuals and with a dual purpose; healthy eating and growing their own produce twinned with a purpose built barbecue for those long hot summer days (hey we can dream can't we?) The raised beds and barbecue have ensured a greater involvement in the garden at Hopeman and the hope is by summer they will see the seeds blooming in full colour with their vegetables being ready to help with their healthy eating approach.

The successful bid from Glasgow East demonstrates a real group approach and is focussed on a steering group approach where the individuals from Glasgow East will be fully involved in planning and shaping their spending / plans. The range of activities that have already happened and are planned reflects the choices of individuals within Glasgow East around what they believe offers FUN!!!

The group is also ensuring that the money received as part of the successful bid is used throughout the year which means the FUN can last longer. The photographs certainly demonstrate that Participatory Funding has had a very positive effect in Glasgow East around involvement and how a little funding can stretch a long way!

We have planned to produce a total of three newsletters as we move towards April, which was our submission timeframe for applications. At present we are hopeful of Participatory Funding being available for another year, however this will be dependent on organisational funding and the current financial climate we are operating within. I hope within our third edition to offer an up to date position in respect of funding.

Highland Fling

By Janet Findlay

I was part of the steering group which organised the Participatory Funding Event. The group met fortnightly at Park Circus in the run up to the event on the 7th June 2013. The steering group was used to help support individuals to think about how they wanted to present their idea on the day. I initially went along with staff then went a few times myself too which was great for my confidence. I'm really glad I got involved and got to see the whole thing through to the end.

I took the steering group information back to Balmoral Gate and spoke about it at our house meetings. At the house meetings we discussed different pitch ideas and initially decided to go for a day out at Go Ape. Afterwards we realised Go Ape wasn't suitable for everyone in the service and we had always wanted to pick something that everyone in the service could attend. We then came up with the idea of visiting the Highlands as we had travelled to lots of places in Scotland on our daytrips but the Highlands were always out of reach because of the distance and cost.

I volunteered to pitch at the event and Susan, the Senior Support Worker, helped me to create the pitch. We did this together in the staff office and I practiced a few times with different staff. We wanted to stand out on the day so decided that we would all wear 'See you Jimmy' hats, have Scotland flags painted on our cheeks and wear either red or blue clothing. Abigail, Support Practitioner, painted a banner which we displayed at our stall. We picked the title 'Highland Fling' as we thought it was catchy and everyone liked it.

On the day I braved the challenge and pitched the Highland Fling idea on my own. I was third to pitch and felt really nervous as I have never spoke in front of so many people before and it was a big crowd! I got lots of encouragement from staff before I went up, which was really nice and everyone congratulated me afterwards. I felt relieved after I had done it and really glad that it went well. When I heard we won the money I felt elated that I had really achieved something for everyone!



Even if we hadn't got any money I'm glad I took part in the whole process as I gained a lot from the experience and I would definitely do it again! I would highly recommend this to other individuals as it's a great self esteem and confidence builder.

Highland Fling

By Janet Findlay

On the 14th August we went on our Highland Fling trip with our £2000 winnings. This was a mini bus tour with an overnight stay in Inverness. We were picked up at 9am from the service by our tour guide and driver Alan, who was dressed for the occasion in a kilt.



We went to Dunkeld and enjoyed views of the River Tay and visited the cathedral. We then went on to Pitlochry for lunch and a walk around the local shops. Afterwards we went to the Bruar Falls, which were magnificent! I've never seen water so clear in my life. It was like the Timotei advert from the telly! The views over the whole falls were stunning and well worth the climb to see them.



Highland Fling

By Janet Findlay

The driver took us to see some local Highland coos which were the biggest I'd ever seen. They were quite near a stream and some ducks were nibbling on their fur, which was quite amusing!



Later we went to Inverness where we had a nice meal at the youth hostel. Some of the group went on to a local pub to watch the Scotland and England football match. I had a look around the local area with a group of the girls before heading to bed.



Highland Fling

By Janet Findlay

The next day was started off with a traditional Scottish breakfast which was lovely and set us up for another day in the Highlands. We went on a boat trip on Loch Ness and got in the swing of things by wearing our 'See you Jimmy' hats and doing the highland fling on the top deck. We were an attraction for the other tourists on board who were taking our pictures. The views of Urquhart Castle were amazing.



After this we went to Glencoe and the atmosphere was magical. There was a lone piper and we all had our pictures taken with him. It was dark and misty and reminded me of the massacre of Glencoe which I learned about from a Corries song when I was younger. The driver was playing the Corries in the mini bus too and this was really nostalgic for me.



Highland Fling

By Janet Findlay

Our last destination was Luss and Loch Lomond en route home. Some of the staff went paddling in the water which was funny and the rest of us had a look about.



On the journey back to the service everyone was pretty tired and it gave me time to reflect on what a great time I had from start to finish.

We were so glad to get this opportunity as it was the first overnight trip our service has had that everyone was able to attend, including more staff than usual, which was great. I felt it really brought the service together as everyone got involved in making it happen. It has given us life long happy memories.

Quotes from people on the trip -



“I have been in Scotland for 7 years but had never had the opportunity to go outside Glasgow before. I couldn't believe there was so much water and greenery in Scotland”

“Brilliant! Really enjoyed it!”

“Best trip yet”

“It's been my favourite overnight”

“It was very good”

Hopeman Avenue Gardening Project

By April Barnett

After discussions with all the residents at Hopeman Avenue about what they would like to use the Participatory Budget money for we decided that we would like money towards a gardening project. The service runs a healthy cooking group which everyone attends on a Friday. It was decided that it would be good to grow fresh vegetables in the garden to use in the cooking group. Everyone agreed they would like a barbecue for the garden too so we agreed to make this part of the bid.

Everyone got together to take photos of the garden and the area we would like developed before submitting the bid. Once this was done we all worked together to get t-shirts printed and come up with our slogan for Participatory Event Day. We all came up with ideas but eventually decided on 'Junk food go away, fruit and veg are here to stay'.

When the big day arrived to present our ideas Margaret and John both wanted to come along and do the presentation. We had our own stall and we all helped tell everyone about our ideas. Margaret met loads of people she used to know and they all said how well she looked. Margaret, John, Rachel & myself all got up and did our presentation, we all felt quite nervous but all helped each other.



Margaret and John both said how much fun the day was and how much they enjoyed hearing everyone's ideas as some of the presentations were really funny. Margaret said she would do this again and John said he really enjoyed himself. Rachel and I had a great day and we all thought the participatory funding was a good event. The day was really enjoyable.

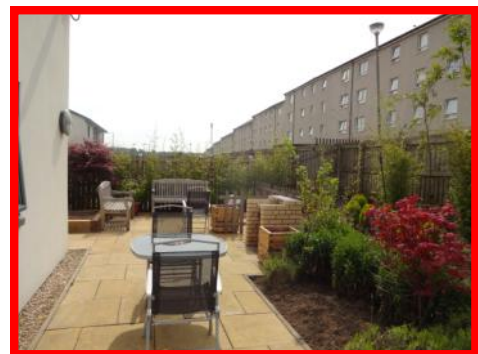
Hopeman Avenue Gardening Project

By April Barnett

Since we have received the money everyone at the service has been really positive and feels the service has benefited from the garden makeover. We hope in 2014 to grow our own vegetables and cook a meal with these and have a good gardening year. Everyone is keen to have lots of barbecues and we would like to invite everyone who took part in the presentation to a barbecue at the service in the summer.



Margaret - "I am looking forward to the barbecue and I want more flowers in the garden"



Hopeman Avenue Gardening Project

By April Barnett



Maureen - " I love the Barbeque and I like sitting in the garden."



John - "It was good fun, lets have more barbecues!"



Glasgow East Gathering Group

By Nicola McKenna

On 3rd April Glasgow East area had an Easter Gathering and individuals were informed that the opportunity had come up to bid for Participatory Funding. Individuals were asked to give suggestions of FUN things that they would like to do and were given questionnaires to write down their ideas. The group discussed how they liked meeting up together, for example for Christmas parties and days away, and would like the opportunity to do this regularly at a local hall so that they could have a cup of tea, a chat and, most importantly HAVE FUN!

Dylan and John gave a presentation in front of nearly one hundred people to explain why Glasgow East services wanted to bid for Participatory Funding for social gatherings. Although they were nervous beforehand, they soon got into the swing of the presentation and happily the bid was successful! The group were so pleased and couldn't wait to organise their first meet up. Very soon individuals were volunteering to be on the steering group responsible for the gatherings and collecting suggestions for days away.

The group has been very successful and all individuals supported from the Glasgow East area are invited along to Milnbank Hall every second Monday for two hours of fun with refreshments, karaoke, music and bingo!



A day trip to Largs was also suggested and at the start of September a large group of individuals went for a day by the sea followed by fish, chips and ice cream at Nardini's. It was a beautiful sunny day and a great time was had by everyone!



Glasgow East Gathering Group By Nicola McKenna

At the end of October the steering group organised a Halloween Party with food, music, games and prizes for the best costume. Betty, Michael, Marianna and Sharon from Oakley Terrace service were a great help in the preparations for the Halloween party. Betty was involved in organising the jokes and riddles and helped set up the tables. Sharon made chocolate apples and helped to carve the pumpkin and Michael helped to design the poster.



Cathy said "Great day, I enjoyed the food and I was so happy that I won the best costume!"



Glasgow East Gathering Group

By Nicola McKenna



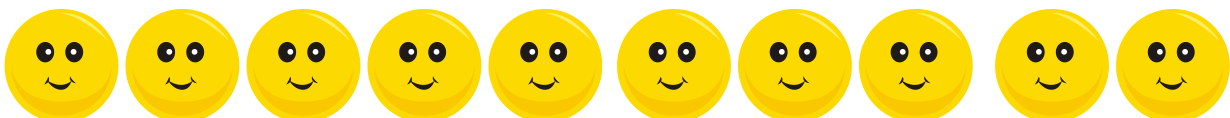
Winifred said "I had a great day, and I enjoyed singing at the karaoke"



Ann said "I enjoyed playing the balloon game and winning a prize and having a wee dance!"

John (Member of Glasgow East Gathering Steering group)

"I was asked to be involved in the Participatory Funding steering group, which I have really enjoyed. I was very nervous when presenting our funding request as we were the last to go up and everyone's looked really good, although I feel we did well and was really pleased when we were granted the funding. I have been involved with planning the events and really enjoyed attending them. I have met many new friends and renewed old friendships. I really hope these gatherings continue as I would miss everyone"



NEXT EDITION

READY TO GO GROUP

WAVERLEY TRIP

TRIP TO WEMYSS BAY

KARAOKE & MUSIC

GATHERING GROUP