

# Kelvin Valley LEADER

## Leading the way to success

### LEADER FACTFILE

#### Did you know?

**LEADER** was launched in Scotland in 1991 but the Kelvin Valley was awarded its first £500,000 in 2008 and has won further additions since then.

**OVER 95%** of rural Scotland is covered by Leader Funding

**OVER £50 MILLION** of funding was provided for rural communities between 2007 - 2013

**20 LEADER** areas cover rural Scotland including the Kelvin Valley Leader

**KELVIN VALLEY LEADER** covers the valley from Lennoxton to Banton with a population of around 50,000 in towns and villages.

**OVER 30 PROJECTS** have been helped with funding in the Kelvin Valley, see inside for selected project profiles and full list.

**KELVIN VALLEY LEADER** Action Group is made up of NLC, EDC, Agencies and community organisations.

**WE ARE NOW** looking forward to the 2014 - 2020 funding bid.

## Helping communities to help themselves

### How funding has revitalised the Kelvin Valley and helped organisations serving the local population

LEADER has been an amazing success story for the Kelvin Valley. It has helped fund over 30 projects which have really added value to local communities.

It has also been a story of how neighbouring councils, national agencies and local volunteers all came together to create Kelvin Valley LEADER. We then persuaded the Government to fund us so we could support successful projects.

It has also been good to see how many organisations have run projects. Community organisations, agencies and councils all have been involved.

And the range of projects has been incredible. From festivals to community halls, Roman wall to canal, bees to booklets, LEADER has helped us all.

But LEADER is never a soft option. The need to get match funding and to

pay the bills before getting the cash, has challenged the smaller community organisations in particular. But they did it, and congratulations to all of them.

Congratulations also to the Kelvin Valley LEADER team who have steered through a complex process with the minimum of hassle and the maximum of help to all of us.

This is the first time we have applied for LEADER funding for our area. We got one of the smallest allocations in Scotland but we have spent it well.

Our next bid will go to the Government in a year or so. We have now proved our capability and deserve a much bigger allocation in the next round. Let's hope we get it.

*Paul Carter*

*Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum*



Local history play at Auchinstarry Basin by Twechar Youth Group and Hopscotch Theatre.



# Project Profiles

Some of the over 30 projects in the Kelvin Valley helped by more than £700,000 of LEADER funding



## 1. Kirkintilloch Canal Festival 2009

Led by East Dunbartonshire Council, was supported with a significant contribution from the LEADER Programme. In line with the programme's aim of encouraging tourism activities within the Kelvin Valley this festival also capitalised on one of the most well known features of the area, the Forth & Clyde Canal. The LEADER contribution funded a range of marketing and advertising activities which allowed the festival organisers to increase visitor numbers and employ specialist staff to plan and co-ordinate the delivery of a number of events on the day.

## 2. Twechar Link Up Path

Delivered by Twechar Community Action, a pathway linking both sides of the village was created in the village of Twechar which provided better and safer access for villagers to reach amenities in the village.

In creating the pathway a derelict area which was used for fly tipping and anti-social behaviour has also been transformed into a wildlife habitat. In addition the project engaged 23 local volunteers to do much of the work as well as providing accredited training to two young people in the construction of the pathway and biodiversity area and is a fabulous example of a local community effectively using LEADER to make a huge difference.

## 3. Scents and Sensitivities - Environmental

Led by Waterways Trust Scotland and located at the Auchinstarry Basin on the Forth and Clyde Canal this project had contributions from a wide range of funding partners, including LEADER. In recent years the Basin has been developed and a marina, facilities block and restaurant have emerged. The Scents & Sensitivities project developed the remaining near-desolate section of the Basin by providing sensory gardens, trails and interpretation to help people appreciate the natural environment around the marina and local heritage. In addition the project offered accredited training and employment which trained 3 young people in horticultural skills which they will use to help develop and maintain the garden and trail.



## 4. Access to the Antonine Wall/ Antonine Wall Improvements

These two projects are linked by their aspiration to capitalise on the most significant cultural feature of the Kelvin Valley, the Antonine Wall. The World Heritage Site was the site of two separate but linked projects. The first, run by the Central Scotland Forest Trust engaged with the local community in exploring how they could share and benefit from their proximity to the Wall. The second, led by North Lanarkshire Council, led to physical access improvements such as gates and signage along the Antonine Wall, as well as marketing materials that illustrate the routes and key points of interest.



## 5. Artist in Residence

This Cumbernauld College led project, based at their Kirkintilloch campus, worked with young people from North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire in the design and manufacture of interpretation and orientation panels for sites of cultural and natural heritage across the Kelvin Valley. These were designed in collaboration with Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park and Waterways Trust Scotland. The resulting panels are remarkable and the collaborative artistic process involving young people produced benefits in terms of confidence and self esteem which they will take into their careers or future training.

## 6. Kids and the Kelvin

The Clyde River Foundation worked with 357 children from 14 primary schools from across the Kelvin Valley to introduce them to practical conservation measures on the River Kelvin. From attendance at a launch event at Glasgow Science Centre, to installing trout hatcheries within their classrooms and then to releasing the trout into their local rivers the children gained hands-on environmental awareness and knowledge of their local river's ecosystem. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the project introduced many children to their local natural environment for the first time.





## 7. Walkers are Welcome

This project, led by the volunteer Friends of Kelvin Valley Park, organised the hosting in Kilsyth of a 'Walkers are Welcome' conference for ramblers and walkers from throughout the UK. In addition the project group co-ordinated the design, purchase and installation of signs and interpretive panels throughout the path network of the Kelvin Valley. The project successfully raised the profile of the Kelvin Valley as a destination for walkers and improved access and interpretation for both visitors and residents.

## 8. Explore Lennoxton & Campsie

This community driven project from the Lennoxton Initiative led to the production of publicity leaflets and marketing material for the local path network and a number of finger posts being installed on key paths in the area. The project built on extensive community engagement within the Lennoxton, Clachan of Campsie and broader Campsie Fells area,

## 9. Replacement of Wooden Floor

Through the transfer of Rural Priorities funding to LEADER a number of community facilities have been enhanced. An excellent example of these is this project, led by Queenzieburn



New floor at Queenzieburn Community Centre

Community Centre. The much used and valued local hall is the focus of most community activities in the village; however, deterioration in the condition of the floor and doors had led to the use of the hall being jeopardised. Using LEADER funding the volunteer group co-ordinated the replacement of the floor and doors to a high standard to ensure the hall remains a key feature of village activity.

## 10. Construction of Footpaths in and around Replica Medieval Fortified Village

The Clanranald Trust for Scotland is constructing a replica 12th century motte and bailey fortified village in the Carron Valley Forest, to be called Duncarron, which will incorporate "living history" inside. With the support of LEADER the Trust completed the footpath network necessary for visitor access to and within Duncarron. With the support of local community groups and a number of volunteer helpers the work included excavating the footpaths, consolidating required upfill material and laying a finished surface.

This development will be used as the physical base for the Trust and through participation of school children, students and the general public will create a unique opportunity for promoting Scottish heritage & culture through interaction and education.



Improvements to Burngreen Park, Kilsyth

Promoted as a popular tourist destination, the raised profile of the area will also benefit the local tourism sector economy.

## 11. Twechar Solar PVs

In its drive for economic, social and environmental sustainability Twechar Action Group explored a number of options for reducing their CO2 emissions and fuel costs for the Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre (THLEC). After implementing a range of initiatives including an energy audit and exploring a number of options they approached LEADER and gained support for the installation of an array of solar panels on their roof. The successful installation of these means they have contributed to the future sustainability of the centre and identified a source of funding for the wide range of activities they undertake.

## 12. The Banton Multi-Sports Court

Replacing the old 'ash park' with a new multi-sports court for the village kids has been the dream of Banton & Kelvinhead Community Action for several years. With support from LEADER, North Lanarkshire Council, Amalgamated Quarries and a great deal of community fund-raising, the sports court is now a reality and is much used by the village children and the local school.



## OVER 30 PROJECTS HELPED:

### KILSYTH INTERNATIONAL CARNIVAL 2010:

Community based festival featuring a diverse range of performers of music, dance, theatre, and comedy from around the world.

### KIRKINTILLOCH CANAL FESTIVAL 2009:

This two day festival attracted visitors from around Scotland to celebrate and enjoy boat trips, performances and other attractions.

### SCENTS & SENSITIVITIES – EMPLOYABILITY:

Provided accredited training to young people in horticulture and landscaping at Auchenstarry Marina.

### TOGETHER THROUGH TRANSPORT:

Community transport scheme for senior citizens, East Dunbartonshire

### LINK UP PATH: Provision of a new path in the village of Twechar

### SCENTS & SENSITIVITIES – ENVIRONMENTAL:

Enhancing the visitor experience at Auchenstarry Marina

### FOOTPATHS IN AND AROUND REPLICA MEDIEVAL FORTIFIED VILLAGE:

Providing path network at Duncarron Fort

### ACCESS TO THE ANTONINE WALL:

Community consultation on access to the World Heritage Site.

### BE ALL YOU CAN BE: Training and support for young people not in training, education or employment.

### COLZIUM CLOCK HOUSE THEATRE:

Options appraisal for the listed Colzium Clock Theatre

### CAMPISIE FELS MARKETING PROJECT:

Production of marketing material for the area

### EXPLORING THE KELVIN VALLEY:

Support for community based newsletter and guidebook which provides invaluable information on local activities.

### RECAP: Recycling service for rural areas

### SILVERBIRCH COMMUNITY GARDEN:

Creation of Greenspace and training area near Milton of Campsie

### EXPLORE LENNOXTOWN & THE CAMPSIES:

Creation of marketing material for local area

### ANTONINE WALL ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS:

Access and interpretation for the World Heritage Site

### BURNGREEN RECREATION GROUND:

Improvements to a community area in Kilsyth

### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:

Community groups from the KV working with an artist

### WALKERS ARE WELCOME: Pathway

signage and support for the national conference in Kilsyth

### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE II – THE VITAL SPARK:

Professional artist working with community groups to produce panels depicting the heritage and culture of the KV

### CANAL ATTRACTIONS: New marketing

material for the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival 2010

### KV BEES: Support for Bee Keeping in the Kelvin Valley

### TWECHAR OUTDOOR PURSUIT CENTRE:

Feasibility Study for Twechar Youth Group

### KIDS AND THE KELVIN: Conservation of their local rivers involving over 200 children

### BANTON SPORTS AREA:

Modern multi-use games area for use by the local community

### DISABLED TOILETS: Improved facilities for the Campsie Memorial Hall

### QUEENZIEBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE FLOOR REPLACEMENT:

New flooring that will allow a number of new activities at the hub of the local community

### TWECHAR SOLAR PV'S:

Installation of sustainable technology in Twechar Healthy Living Centre

### BANTON COMMUNITY HALL IMPROVEMENTS:

Improvements to windows and doors of community hall.

### HEALTH AND HERITAGE: Guided walks, booklet, signage and seating.

### CROY SPORTS HUB: Community use room.

## VIEWPOINT

# Take me to your LEADER - Funding and the future

INEVITABLY many of us are looking forward to the next Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) which will run from 2014-2020 with the hope that there will be further opportunities for the Kelvin Valley.

While future funding is not guaranteed there are good indications that LEADER has enhanced its reputation as a fund which can provide effective support to rural communities in Scotland and will be part of the future rural development programme. Issues related to the level of funding, coverage of areas and how the funding is managed will all be discussed between the EU and member states in the coming 18 months and these will be complex negotiations. It is heartening to report that the Scottish Government has begun discussions with stakeholders across the country.

Our initial views are that we hope for a smooth transition from this programme period to the next, a clearer application structure for applicants within the wider SRDP and that some consideration is given to the very tight financial restrictions that face the public sector and community groups for the foreseeable future.

From a Kelvin Valley LEADER perspective we look forward to working with all our stakeholders to maximise any future funding opportunities that emerge in the next programme and to bring the best rural development programme possible to local communities.

**Paul Kane**

*North Lanarkshire Council, Leader Team.*

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