

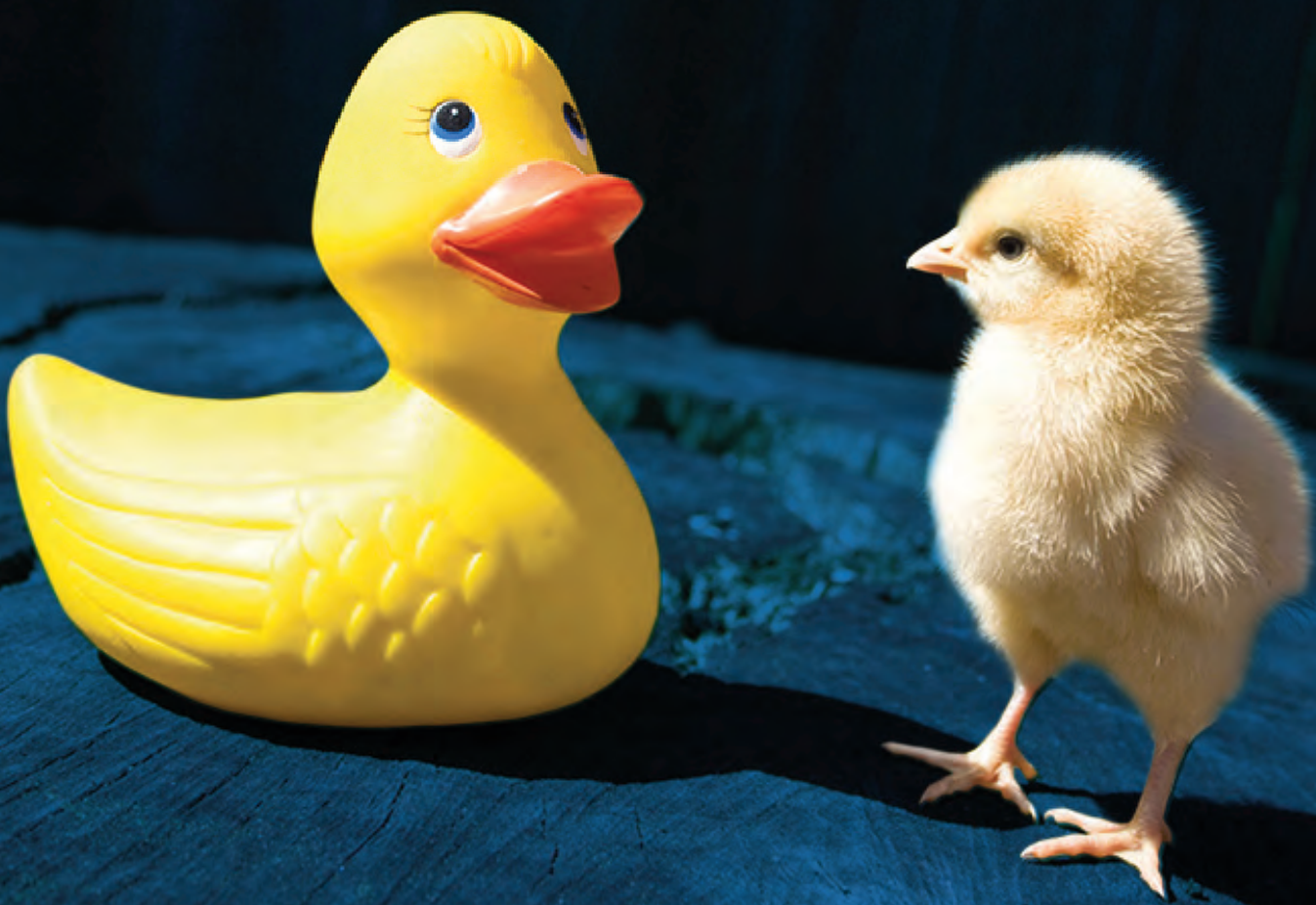
SURF



SURF Awards

Awards

2017



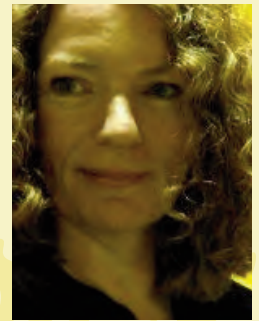
SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2017



The 2017 SURF Awards is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, and with additional support from Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scotland's Towns Partnership, and Skills Development Scotland.

“This special publication highlights the regeneration projects that were selected for the 2017 SURF Awards category shortlists by our independent judging panel. We hope the talent, creativity, imagination and devotion documented here can encourage even more successful regeneration activity across Scotland in future.”



Kate Wimpres
Chair, SURF

The 2017 SURF Awards



SURF was formed 25 years ago, in 1992, with the core objective of improving policy and practice in community regeneration in Scotland. One of the ways in which we work towards this goal is by sharing information on ‘what works’ through the SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

Since 1998, the SURF Awards has identified, promoted and celebrated some of the most impressive achievements in the tackling of physical, social and economic decline in communities throughout the country.

This publication profiles the 15 projects shortlisted for the 2017 SURF Awards. We hope their success can offer encouragement, guidance and inspiration to everyone contributing to regeneration activities across the country.

Home and Place

The 2017 SURF Awards has five categories to reflect regeneration activity at all scales, from modestly funded community interventions to major infrastructure investments. This year, we have brought in a new category to recognise the important regeneration contributions delivered by new housing developments.

The five categories are:

- **Creative Regeneration**
- **Youth Employability: Overcoming Barriers**
- **Community Led Regeneration**
- **Housing**
- **Scotland’s Most Improved Place**

Our 20-member panel of expert judges independently considered applications to all categories over an intensive two-month process of assessments and site visits. Working in category teams, the judges were tasked with narrowing down all 66 nominees to a shortlist of 15 and then ultimately selecting just five winners.

Class of 2017

The projects recognised in the 2017 SURF Awards have delivered meaningful physical, social and economic outcomes in places facing major poverty, depopulation and disconnection challenges.

The category winners were The Broomhill Project (see p6), LinkLiving Step On (p8), Dundee International Women’s Centre (p10), Ulva Ferry Housing Project (p12) and the town of Irvine (p14). Our judging panel were highly impressed with the inclusive approaches and high levels of community engagement shared by these diverse initiatives, in addition to the long-standing commitment of project workers and volunteers.

On pages 16-17, you can learn about what last year’s winners have been up to since receiving their SURF Award.

A Team Effort

Like many of the successful initiatives profiled in these pages, there is a committed partnership behind the SURF Awards.

We are particularly grateful for the support of the Scottish Government, which has been our key SURF Awards partner since 2003. On pages 18-19, you can read about what SURF and the Scottish Government are doing to support improved policy and practice in regeneration.

We are also appreciative of the additional support from our five category partners: Creative Scotland, sponsor of the Creative Regeneration award; Skills Development Scotland, sponsor of the Youth Employability category; Highlands & Islands Enterprise, sponsor of the Community Led Regeneration category; and Architecture & Design Scotland and Scotland’s Towns Partnership, joint sponsor of the Scotland’s Most Improved Place category.

The SURF Awards judging panel travel across Scotland to assess shortlisted projects (see map, p4). The time, expertise and energy they provide is greatly appreciated by SURF. You can see who they are on p5.

Finally, SURF could not operate as Scotland’s regeneration forum without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 250+ member organisations: especially our 12 key delivery partners, who are listed on p20.

SURF will be inviting the winning projects to share their knowledge and experience further at a series of free workshop events in May 2018. If you would like to know more about these events, or any other aspect of the SURF Awards, including the outcomes of previous iterations, please visit the dedicated section of our website: www.surf.scot/surf-awards

Results

Contents & Category Results

Creative Regeneration

Purpose: to reward best practice in placing arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts by demonstrating effective partnership working with artists. This category is supported by Creative Scotland.



Winner: **The Broomhill Project** – page 6

Also shortlisted:
Alchemy Film & Arts, CATERAN'S Common Wealth – page 7

Youth Employability: Overcoming Barriers

Purpose: to recognise a project or employer that supports community regeneration by helping young people aged 16-29 to fulfil their potential in the labour market. This category is supported by Skills Development Scotland.



Winner: **LinkLiving Step On** – page 8

Also shortlisted:
Creative Pathways: Barrhead, DRC Youth Project – page 9

Community Led Regeneration

Purpose: to reward best practice in a regeneration project in Scotland that features representatives of a community of place or theme in a leading role. This category is supported by Highlands & Islands Enterprise.



Winner:
Dundee International Women's Centre – page 10

Also shortlisted:
CLEAR Buckhaven, Whithorn's Iron Age – page 11

Housing

Purpose: to recognise and promote the achievements of all housing providers in ensuring that their investments are planned and delivered in a way which produces substantial, lasting benefits to resident communities and the shared aims of wider regeneration partners.



Winner: **Ulva Ferry Housing Project** – page 12

Also shortlisted:
Twechar Regeneration, Laurieston Phase I – page 13

Scotland's Most Improved Place

Purpose: to highlight the positive impacts of participative planning and regeneration processes in Scottish places. This category is supported by Architecture & Design Scotland and Scotland's Towns Partnership.



Winner: **Irvine** – page 14

Also shortlisted:
Middlefield, Shawlands – page 15



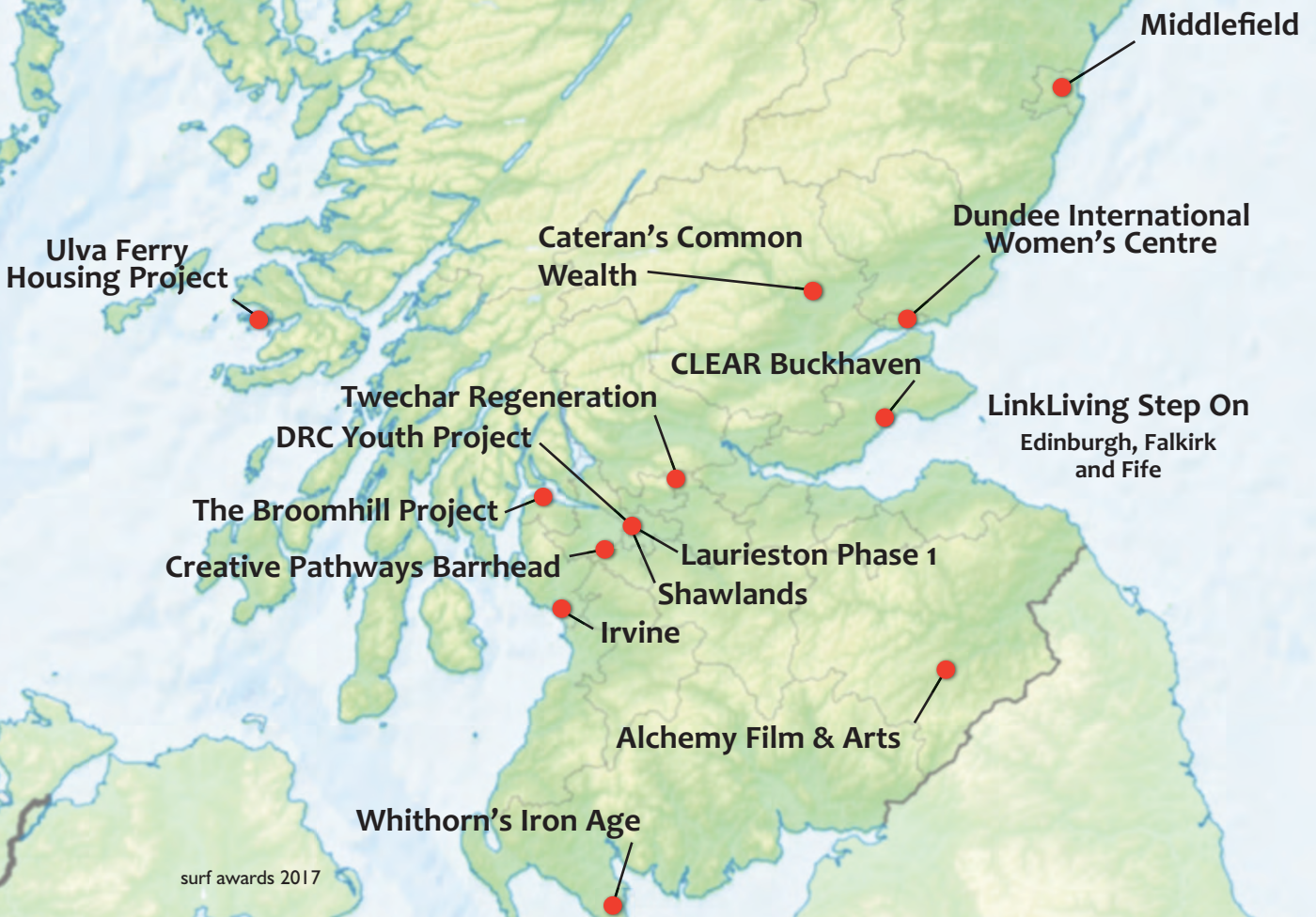
*"Good grief ducky, what have you done to yourself?"
"It's called contouring hen, it's all the rage."*

(Courtesy of caption competition winner Holly Thacker of EVOC)

SURF

Awards

Recognising good practice
across the country



“The SURF Awards showcases the best of Scotland, and highlights the real difference that can be made to young people and their communities by working together.”



Michelle Gibson
Partnership Manager
Skills Development Scotland

Independent judging panel – and the projects they assessed

The 2017 SURF Awards were independently judged by a panel of 20 representatives drawn from national regeneration-related bodies and community organisations. Each panel member, listed below, gave their time freely to evaluate, shortlist, make visits to, and agree a winner from, project applications in the respective categories. SURF is extremely grateful for the time and effort they generously invested.

Creative Regeneration

Matt Baker (The Stove Network)
Maggie Broadley (CoCreate)
Karen Dick (Creative Scotland)
Robert Livingston (Regional Screen Scotland)

Youth Employability: Overcoming Barriers

Vince Connor (Forth Sector)
Blyth Deans (Third Sector Employability Forum)
Michelle Gibson (Skills Development Scotland)
Chris Holloway (Resilient Scotland)

Community Led Regeneration

Esme Clark (Govan Community Council)
Paul Nelis (Scottish Community Development Centre)
Stephanie Rose (Corra Foundation)
Fiona Stirling (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

Housing

Fraser Carlin (Heads of Planning Scotland)
Craig McLaren (RTPI Scotland)
Mary Taylor (ex Scottish Fed. of Housing Associations)
Anne-Marie Thomson (Scottish Government)

Scotland's Most Improved Place

Caroline Clark (Heritage Lottery Fund)
Mhairi Donaghy (Scotland's Towns Partnership)
Diarmaid Lawlor (Architecture & Design Scotland)
Billy Love (Scottish Government)

From Dumfriesshire to the Outer Hebrides, the 66 initiatives nominated for the 2017 SURF Awards are active in addressing physical, social and economic problems in communities throughout Scotland.

They also represent a wide spread of sectors and scales, with diverse public, private and third sector management structures, and budgets that range from under £50k to tens of millions.

While only 15 shortlisted projects are featured in this publication, SURF is grateful to every initiative that was put forward for consideration for helping us understand the important community regeneration work they are all involved in.

The 'Scotland's Most Improved Place' judges pictured with local representatives during their visit to Irvine.



Creative Regeneration

Winner

The Broomhill Project

What is the aim of the project?

To connect local residents with artists in collaborations that assist underprivileged people in the community, helping them develop their skills and deliver positive change.



Project elements are inspired by Broomhill's history

Where is it taking place?

Broomhill is an area of high socioeconomic deprivation in the town of Greenock in the west of Scotland. It was identified among the 10% most deprived areas in the 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

What has been achieved?

The project developed in tandem with a major housing investment in Broomhill by River Clyde Homes, which in 2014 began a £26m programme to refurbish more than 600 local properties, including multi-storey flats.

The housing association provided local arts charity RIG Arts with an initial three year funding grant to use a creative approach to reach disengaged people in the community. The Broomhill Project that emerged has been bolstered by additional project funding, and just under £300k has been invested in a diverse array of projects that has helped to raise the confidence, ambitions, belief and pride of the Broomhill tenants and residents.



The initiative is centred around collaborations between local people and artists

The initiative's first sub-project was a successful 'Heid O' The Hill' oral history investigation that provided a set of thematic priorities based on Broomhill's history, celebrating its former metal foundry, its 1970's

punk scene, and a number of childhood games fondly remembered by older members of the community.

The Broomhill Project now comprises artist residencies, films, community events, murals, community gardens, heritage projects and climate challenge workshops. Local residents have benefited from, among others, workshops on songwriting, photography, film making, painting, stained glass, stone carving, ceramics, textiles, embroidery, 3D drawing, mosaic, and furniture upcycling.

The sessions are delivered from a dedicated Community Art Flat, which has become a busy hub and meeting point for local people. The skills-based workshops have not only visibly enhanced community confidence, but participants are also gaining key practical and interpersonal skills, improving wellbeing and opportunities for work, education and training. In addition, through community designed initiatives such as the 'Broomy's Bees' and 'Broomy's Butterflies' public gardens, local residents have built a greater sense of pride and ownership over the changes being made to their neighbourhood.



Workshops teach new skills in a wide variety of disciplines

Who is running it?

RIG Arts operate the project with a steering group that features participating artists

and members of the community. In addition to River Clyde Homes, funders include Creative Scotland, Riverside Inverclyde, the Big Lottery Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Tesco Groundworks, the People's Postcode Trust and the Scottish Government.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The Broomhill Project demonstrates a truly integrated approach to embedding creativity into the heart of the revitalisation of an often overlooked area of Greenock. The project gives a voice to those living in, and connected to, Broomhill, nurturing their creativity and celebrating their strong industrial and cultural heritage, through stories, songs and art.

The panel were particularly impressed by the quality of the artistic interventions and collaborations as well as the strong partnerships which have been developed with artists, the community and River Clyde Homes. The project has been a catalyst for change and development: empowering the community in Broomhill; supporting a people-centred approach to regeneration from River Clyde Homes; allowing RIG Arts to strengthen and evolve as a creative organisation; and beginning to change the negative perception of the area.

Where can I find out more?

Project Website: <https://thebroomhillproject.com/>

Contact: Karen Orr, Manager, RIG Arts: 01475 649 359, info@rigarts.org



Shortlisted

Alchemy Film & Arts

What is the aim of the project?

To deliver a high quality festival of experimental and new film while supporting the broader social and cultural regeneration of a medium-sized town.

Where is it taking place?

In the town of Hawick, in the Scottish Borders.

What has been achieved?

Since being established in 2010, Alchemy Film & Arts has successfully held seven Film and Moving Image Festivals, showcasing both local and international films. The 2017 festival screened 139 films from 21 countries over five days, with 46 world premieres, 39 Scottish premieres, and more than 80 filmmakers in attendance.



Alongside film screenings, the Festival contributes to a wide range of cultural and community activity, including a popular volunteer scheme, filmmaking residencies, training and exhibitions. Festival events are delivered throughout Hawick, utilising a range of venues and bringing life to derelict buildings and empty spaces. There is also a regional touring programme.

The Festival has attracted thousands of visitors to Hawick each year, placing the town on the cultural map. Alchemy Film & Arts work in partnership with a wide range of national and international cultural organisations, and are also focussed on supporting local talent and aspirations, including through facilitating the local Moving Image Makers Collective.

Who is running it?

The festival is a partnership between Alchemy Film & Arts, a registered charity, and Heart of Hawick, an arts venue and cultural regeneration initiative that itself won a SURF Award back in 2007.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The Alchemy project should inspire smaller communities everywhere to think big and take a 'why not?' attitude – a committed group of artists, volunteers and partners took the plunge on an experimental international film festival that is now playing a significant part in the future thinking of their town. The panel were impressed by the clear, regenerative impact that the Festival is having on the town, bringing filmmakers and visitors from across the world to the Scottish Borders, with resulting benefits to local businesses and increased tourism.

Where can I find out more?

Festival Website: <http://alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk>

Contact: Karen Gateson, Trustee,
Alchemy Film & Arts: 01450 376 421

Cateran's Common Wealth

What is the aim of the project?

To simultaneously highlight the culture and heritage of rural communities and bring local people together.

Where is it taking place?

Along the Cateran Trail in east Perthshire and its communities of Alyth, Rattray, Blairgowrie, Kirkmichael and Mount Blair.

What has been achieved?

Since being established in November 2016, the Cateran's Common Wealth project has centred around three primary projects:

- *The Story Box* - a community oral history installation;
- *The Cateran Trail in 100 Objects* – a museum of 'objects, people and landscapes' chosen by the community;
- *Common Ground* – a textiles project drawing on aerial photos of the local landscape.

These activities have highlighted the area's heritage, encouraging visitors to the area, while also bringing the area's network of communities, local artists and producers together. A programme of workshops has taught new skills, opened up the prospect of work in the creative industries for local people, and fostered community spirit in a dispersed rural area.

Cateran's Common Wealth has had a stimulating effect on the area, as demonstrated by the success of the first ever 'Alyth Creates' festival in 2017, and the creation of a new exhibition and craft space in Blairgowrie.

Who is running it?

The project is led by a network of local artists and producers, working with a wide range of partners including community groups, heritage organisations and local businesses.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The panel were impressed by the inclusive, imaginative approach taken by Cateran's Common Wealth to raise the profile of a rural region that has often felt overlooked. The project's collaborative, participatory ethos has brought the area's long and remarkably rich history to life, and the judges were inspired by both the range and depth of current activities, as well as the potential for such an approach to be adapted in other communities. The project is forging a new and positive identity for the area through lasting change.



Youth Employability: Overcoming Barriers *Winner*

LinkLiving Step On

What is the aim of the project?

To support young people in seeking employment, education and training by helping identify goals and removing barriers to progress.

Where is it taking place?

The project works with young people in the local authority regions of Edinburgh, Falkirk and Fife.

What has been achieved?

In 2016-17, LinkLiving Step On has worked with 107 young people in the three areas and supported them into the Strategic Skills Employability Pipeline model. The Step On programme takes a person centred approach and provides intensive one to one support, particularly at the initial phase, where participants can outline their aspirations and fears. This enables the development of a personalised plan to facilitate respective individual achievements.



More than 100 people participated in the programme in its first year

The programme is tightly focused on personal development, providing volunteering, community work and other opportunities aimed at developing skills, increasing confidence and self-esteem. Programme participants are often facing considerable barriers to work, and particular attention is paid to those who may have suffered from trauma and other mental distress. In such cases LinkLiving work with specialists in community and mental health to provide appropriate and effective support.

The programme has resulted in significant and measurable improvements in individuals' self-confidence and self-esteem. Participants have also reported becoming 're-connected' to the communities in which they live.

Of the 107 participants to date, 98 have recorded an improvement, 58 have registered as volunteers, 20 have gone into college, apprenticeships or Stage 3 employability training, and 14 have gained

Step On participants helped to rebuild Fife Zoo, which reopened in 2016



employment. Participants have also worked on a wide range of projects in their local communities. These have included an initiative investigating independent living issues for young

people, the rebuilding of Fife Zoo, and visits to older people to provide help with technology.

Who is running it?

LinkLiving, a registered charity that provides care at home, housing support and employability services. It is part of the Link Group family of housing and regeneration focused social enterprises.

Why did the judging panel like it?

Dealing primarily with young people with complex and chaotic backgrounds, the 'Step On' project works hard to maintain the early engagement of participants. The SURF Awards judges were particularly impressed by the development of a successful 'Steps to Resilience' programme to respond to this challenge.

LinkLiving has successfully utilised its network of connected companies to offer valuable work placements and a wide range of qualifications to support progression, including youth work and leadership qualifications. The high take-up of Saltire Award participation and the introduction of a Tenancy and Citizenship Award to support those participants who are gaining their first tenancies were particularly valued by the judging panel.

The judges were further impressed by the continuing commitment of former participants to the project as peer educators in schools and as part of the long term support offered by the project.



The project supports participants to face their fears and build confidence

Where can I find out more?

Project Website: www.linkliving.org.uk

Contact: Sarah Smith, Director, LinkLiving: 0330 303 0124, sarah.smith@linkliving.org.uk



Shortlisted

Creative Pathways Barrhead

What is the aim of the project?

To deliver an employability programme that uses the power of arts and creativity to inspire and motivate young people who are not in employment, education or training.

Where is it taking place?

The programme is based in Barrhead in East Renfrewshire.

What has been achieved?

Taking the form of full-time workshops over a 10, 12 or 14-week period, Creative Pathways Barrhead engage highly talented professional artists to lead varied creative activities for 16-24 year olds. Participants are encouraged to try a range of creative activities, and receive up to 40 hours of dedicated employability training in vital skills like job searching and CV-writing.



Between April 2016 and August 2017, Creative Pathways ran four programmes in Barrhead, and worked with 48 young people. A total of 35 (74%) of these participants moved into positive destinations. Crucially, of those that passed a six-month progress check threshold, 100% of those who had moved into positive destinations were still engaged in employment, education or training.

There were additional impressive results in the soft skills development for young people who had taken part. At the end of the programme, improvements were reported in creative arts skills (45 or 94%), confidence (43 or 90%) and employability skills (33 or 69%).

Who is running it?

The project is delivered in partnership by community arts charity Impact Arts and Barrhead Housing Association.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The SURF Awards judges were impressed with the arts and housing relationship behind the project, which has facilitated a high standard of collaboration in inter-generational activity. These strong relationships have resulted in thriving community spaces being developed and adopted by the local communities. The panel gained a real sense of the flexibility built into the programme and the high levels of support being provided to the participants, both when they are in the workshops, and as they progress.

Where can I find out more?

Project Website: www.impactarts.co.uk/content/our-work-young-employability/

Contact: Matthew McWhinnie, Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator, Impact Arts: 0141 575 3001, matthew.mcwhinnie@impactarts.co.uk

DRC Youth Project

What is the aim of the project?

To help 'hard to reach' young people from disadvantaged backgrounds gain and sustain employment.

Where is it taking place?

The Dumbarton Road Corridor (DRC) Youth Project's employability service project is delivered in the north west of Glasgow.



What has been achieved?

Since being set up in October 2015, the DRC Youth Project's employability arm has helped 81 young people into sustained employment and 12 into education. It has also contributed to wider aims by involving a significant number of young people in a range of community activities and workshops.

The initiative takes referrals from a wide range of employability agencies, and has developed a strong partnership with WorkingRite. Its success is built on an intensive approach, based on holistic engagement with individuals. Project staff are proactive in overcoming barriers for participants; they go to young people, work outwith traditional class room settings, and offer one to one sessions.

The project makes a long term commitment to its participants, working with them for as long as it takes to achieve their goals, and offers extensive aftercare for those who find employment. In addition to exams and qualifications, the programme is also focused on wider personal development, which makes participants more confident and better equipped to deal with future challenges.

Who is running it?

The service is run by DRC Youth Project, a voluntary organisation that provides a range of support for socially excluded young people in various wards across north west Glasgow including Yoker, Scotstoun and Whiteinch.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges noted the deep commitment to engaging with disconnected young people and the wide range of activities used, from evening football to youth club sessions. A collaboration with WorkingRite has resulted in the development of a successful programme combining short classroom input and employer work placement. The project also has excellent links with local community organisations and is providing young people with jobs in much-needed back court improvement projects.

Where can I find out more?

Project Website: <http://drcyouthproject.blogspot.co.uk>

Contact: Arthur McNeaney, Project Manager, DRC Youth Project: 0141 951 8669, arthur.mcneaneydrc@hotmail.co.uk

Community Led Regeneration

Winner

Dundee International Women's Centre

What is the aim of the project?

Dundee International Women's Centre's (DIWC) vision is to provide a space where women and girls from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities achieve their personal goals, reach their full potential, and prosper in their community.



DIWC runs its own cycling group, pictured here in Baxter Park

Where is it taking place?

The Centre is located on Dundonald Street in the city of Dundee, and provides services to people in both Dundee and Angus.

What has been achieved?

DIWC's history goes back to 1969, when, as part of an Urban Aid programme, a voluntary group of women visited immigrant families in Dundee to offer help in integrating them into the community, particularly by teaching English. In 2004, DIWC became a registered charity. In 2006, the project significantly expanded, and moved into its current premises. It has been operating at full capacity ever since.

The Centre provides a safe and welcoming space where women from BME communities can access a range of support services. Subsidised in-house childcare is provided to encourage women with small children to engage. Participants from over eighty countries are given the opportunity to take part in activities related to health and wellbeing, informal and formal learning, training and qualifications, employability, parenting and social events.

DIWC's most recent annual survey reported that over 95% of women who come to the Centre have increased confidence and self esteem as a result, and that they are more likely to speak to doctors, children's teachers, council officials, and financial service providers on their own.

Centre visitors have also demonstrated improvements in English language skills and employability skills, while immigrants have reported a much-reduced feeling of isolation, which is often experienced by women coming to a new country. DIWC provides general training, information and advice services and works in partnership with many local organisations to promote active participation, leadership and citizenship.

Who is running it?

DIWC is an independent charity.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judging panel were impressed by the results that the Centre is achieving and how the project had responded to the needs of a diverse BME community with a wide range of educational, cultural and religious challenges. The judges saw that the Centre is providing a safe place for women to take part in a wide range of valued educational, recreational and social activities, while its training and employment service outcomes are leading to meaningful job opportunities.



Black History Month is celebrated at the Centre

The success of the project is demonstrated by the fact that many learners and service users report that they have greatly increased confidence as a result of attending the Centre. Some participants go on to become staff members to support the next generation of BME women that make use of the Centre.



The Centre works with Dundee's Verdant Works in providing creative activities

The judging panel strongly felt that the impact of DIWC goes beyond the individual to the rest of the family, and plays a key role in enabling wider integration. The initiative makes a strong and active contribution to the city of Dundee.

Where can I find out more?

Centre Website: www.diwc.co.uk

Contact: Susan A'Brook, Evaluation and Impact Officer,
DIWC: 01382 462 058, susan@diwc.co.uk



Shortlisted

CLEAR Buckhaven

What is the aim of the project?

To support the social and physical regeneration of a struggling town, delivering a higher quality and more attractive environment for residents.

Where is it taking place?

Buckhaven is a former mining town in Fife on Scotland's east coast. Two of its areas are among the 10% most deprived in Scotland, according to the 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.



What has been achieved?

Since its creation in 2007, Community Led Environmental Action for Regeneration or CLEAR has undertaken many activities to improve the physical character of Buckhaven. These have included the creation of community growing spaces and orchards, the enhancement of local streets and greenspaces through new planting and maintenance, the creation of community artworks and heritage displays, as well as regular clean-ups and litter picks.

These efforts have had a transformational impact on neglected and run-down public spaces in the town. CLEAR's activities engage all sections of the community, and a busy weekly programme of volunteer actions and events are promoted to all residents. In addition to outdoor activity, CLEAR run classes to teach new skills and foster wider community engagement.

With around 1000 participants and 100 volunteers, CLEAR Buckhaven has grown to become the main community anchor organisation in the town, acting as an outlet for new ideas and community concerns. Wider community action achievements includes leading a Community Charrette and providing facilities for other community campaigns.

Who is running it?

CLEAR Buckhaven is managed by a committee of local residents; activity programmes are delivered in partnership with local schools, businesses and other organisations.

Why did the judging panel like it?

CLEAR has community energy in abundance, and is visibly using this to make Buckhaven a better place to live. The judging panel loved the fact that the project volunteers had planted thousands of fruit trees in dozens of community orchards, planted miles of road side spring bulbs, established public art works and introduced community benches, while also supporting useful work experience opportunities.

Where can I find out more?

Project Website: www.clearfife.org.uk

Contact: Allen Armstrong, Secretary, CLEAR Buckhaven: clearfife@aol.com

Whithorn's Iron Age

What is the aim of the project?

To regenerate a remote town by developing and promoting its outstanding heritage.

Where is it taking place?

The town of Whithorn in Dumfries & Galloway.

What has been achieved?

Whithorn has a number of internationally recognised heritage sites, including the earliest physical



evidence of Christian settlement in Scotland. It is also home to some of the worst pockets of deprivation in the south of Scotland. A consultation event carried out in 2014 found that local people were rightly proud of their heritage, but wished to see it utilised more effectively for the benefit of the community as a whole.

This is the vision behind the Whithorn Trust's Iron Age project, which has initiated a wide range of activities aimed at celebrating the area's heritage. The project's crowning achievement is the construction of a full scale Iron Age roundhouse by local unemployed craftsmen and volunteers, using locally sourced materials.

The roundhouse, which opened in March 2017, now serves as a base for guided tours of the town's historic sites. It has had a significant impact on visitor numbers, with the Whithorn Trust recording a 40% increase in seasonal visitors. The project has also delivered workshops on Iron Age farming with local schools, and produced an award winning youth film project, 'DigTV'.

Who is running it?

The Whithorn Trust, a local voluntary organisation established in 1986.

Why did the judging panel like it?

This is a great example of a community making the most of local assets to boost tourism and create local volunteering and job opportunities in a creative and educational way. The project is clearly raising the profile of Whithorn, increasing visitor numbers and attracting new customers for local businesses. The panel were delighted to see local volunteers from different generations offering guided tours to the public, with the tour narrative including their own informed contribution to the Iron Age story. The project is significantly contributing to the regeneration of the area.

Where can I find out more?

Project Website: www.facebook.com/thewhithorntrust/

Contact: Julia Watt, Development Manager, Whithorn Trust: 01988 500 469, juliamuirwatt@btconnect.com

Housing

Winner

Ulva Ferry Housing Project

What is the aim of the project?

To deliver affordable family housing in a remote rural community as a basis for tackling depopulation and socio-economic decline.

Where is it taking place?

The small community of Ulva Ferry on the west coast of the Isle of Mull, in the Argyll & Bute region.

What has been achieved?

In 2010, the geographically isolated island community and its economically fragile, ageing population was in danger of losing its



Local people of all ages were involved in the project © Carlyne Charrington

primary school as a result of long-term population decline strongly influenced by the lack of affordable housing options for young people. A successful local campaign to keep Ulva School open provided a genesis for the Ulva Ferry Housing Project, the need for which was identified in extensive community consultations in 2013 and 2015.

In 2017, two three-bedroom homes were built, and two new families have now moved into what is the first designated affordable rental housing to be built in the area for decades. The homes are mid-market rental properties with secure long term tenancies. Enabling two new families, each with three children, to move to the area, has secured a future for the local school which, with the lack of any other local facilities, acts as a hub for the wider community.

The homes are high quality in design and construction, and are built to passive standards, making them very cheap to heat. This is particularly significant given their exposed coastal location and in the context of widespread fuel poverty in the area.

Local people have been involved at each stage of the project, and every effort has been made to ensure that every element has been run in the interests of the wider community. The project now serves as an

exemplar for how small remote communities can finance, deliver and manage new housing. The success of the project has also strengthened the community's appetite for more housing development towards further securing a long term future for Ulva Ferry.

Who is running it?

The project is a joint venture between Mull and Iona Community Trust and the Ulva School Community Association.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The community of Ulva Ferry has endured the long term impact of a chronic shortage of affordable housing, spiralling energy costs and the blight of short term tenancies. Faced, however, with official evidence of a lack of demand for new housing, the community took it upon themselves to construct a compelling argument for investment in new family homes.

The result is a physically modest development that offers massive economic and social opportunities for this community, and other precariously situated communities across the Inner Hebrides. The judges were blown away by the clear evidence that this project emanated from the community and from the outset sought to highlight and secure the lasting benefits that can be gained from having housing as the focus for regeneration.

The residents and professionals involved in the Ulva Ferry should be proud of what they have achieved in delivering not only new housing but also exceptional wider opportunities. The hope generated by the project has the potential to sustain the community for generations.



The new units were the first affordable rental housing built in the area in decades © Johnny Barrington



The new tenant families have reported high levels of satisfaction

Where can I find out more?

Project Webpage: www.mict.co.uk/projects-services/ulvaferrydevelopments/ulva-ferry-housing-project/

Contact: Helen MacDonald, Local Development Officer, Mull and Iona Community Trust: 01680 812 900, hmacdonald@mict.co.uk



Shortlisted

Laurieston Phase 1

What is the aim of the project?

To revitalise a neglected area of the city through the development of new housing, community facilities and public spaces.

Where is it taking place?

Laurieston is located in Glasgow's Gorbals area, south of the city centre.

What has been achieved?

So far, Phase 1 of the £100m Laurieston regeneration programme has delivered 201 homes constructed for social rent, and 39 for mid-market rent, for the New Gorbals Housing Association. The majority of these properties have been allocated to local people rehoused from high rises, the last of which was demolished in 2015. A further 69 homes have been built for private sale.



The properties have been built to a high standard, with a mix of terraced homes, town houses and apartments, designed to mimic traditional tenement developments, encourage a sense of community, and deter anti-social behaviour. The development has not simply been focused on building housing; close attention has been paid to re-connecting and integrating Laurieston into the surrounding areas, making the most of its proximity to central Glasgow.

The community has been involved at every stage of the development through a committee of local people and public consultations. The project has also provided employability opportunities, while a community art and engagement strategy delivered by arts partner WAVEparticle has contributed effectively to the social regeneration of the area.

Who is running it?

Urban Union, a partnership between McTaggart Construction and the Robertson Group that works closely with the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, New Gorbals Housing Association and Glasgow Housing Association.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The housing delivered at Laurieston is a fantastic example of a commercial investment driven by a desire of those involved to create a community where people will choose to live: high quality homes and an environment that meets their aspirations. The judges particularly welcomed the focus on the heritage of the area and the thriving arts programme, which have been complemented by construction works with strong educational, employability and training outcomes.

Where can I find out more?

Urban Union Website: www.urbanunionltd.co.uk

Contact: Kirsty Robertson Sales & Marketing Manager Urban Union: 0141 530 4000, kirsty.robertson@urbanunionltd.co.uk

Twechar Regeneration

What is the aim of the project?

To respond to major depopulation and unemployment problems in a rural village by providing new family homes to retain local young people and attract new residents.

Where is it taking place?

In Twechar, a former mining village, located on the Forth and Clyde Canal in East Dunbartonshire.

What has been achieved?

The closure of the local mines in the mid-1960s and the decline of other traditional industries in Twechar led to a falling population and high unemployment over subsequent decades. The regeneration project developed in response has, over the last 10 years, used the demolition of 200 Council homes which were no longer fit for purpose to deliver 143 energy efficient, quality family homes in a mix of affordable tenures.

This has led to a rising population, now at 1400, enabling local young people to remain in the community and start families, increasing the school roll. Twechar Community Action also took over management of the successful Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre, which has become the hub of the village, providing much-needed meeting spaces and local services.



Significantly, the project has helped the village progress from being within the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland in the mid-2000s, to its current 30% placing in the most recent 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Who is running it?

The housing was delivered by development company Places for People as part of a partnership initiative with East Dunbartonshire Council, Twechar Regeneration Group, and local community members.

Why did the judging panel like it?

Twechar, in the opinion of the SURF Awards judges, has been transformed by a community that recognised that its future depended on creating quality housing for existing and new residents. The community has been at the heart of every activity and the project has secured population growth and vital local services. The judges were particularly impressed by the local positivity in meeting significant challenges, and the delivery of outcomes that pay homage to its past as a mining community.

Where can I find out more?

Contact: Val Leslie, Assistant Development Manager, Places for People: 0131 559 2200, valerie.leslie@placesforpeople.co.uk

Scotland's Most Improved Place

Winner

Irvine

Irvine is a town of 33,000 people on the coast of North Ayrshire. Once a thriving industrial centre and port with a number of large industries, the town has experienced deindustrialisation and depopulation in the recent past.

The Irvine Vision is an effort by North Ayrshire Council, in partnership with the local community, to take a strategic approach to the town's economic and physical development. Originally approved in December 2015, the plan has delivered large scale investment in the town centre and a number of other areas. These developments have been guided by local planning partnerships and are based on extensive consultation with the local community.



A new community hub in Fullarton provides employability services and a multi-purpose hall

The main physical improvements so far have taken place in and around Irvine's historic Townhouse, a former district court. The existing building has been refurbished extensively and a new leisure centre has been conjoined. This £20m investment has provided a new first class cultural, heritage and leisure centre facility for the people of Irvine.

This development has been supported by wider work to improve Irvine town centre, which has included the conservation of existing historic buildings. The town centre investments have been complemented by other efforts aimed at aiding small and medium size businesses. This has centred on the i3 Business Park, which seen the creation of 300 jobs and the addition over 300,000 sq ft of business space in the past five years. These have built upon a strong foundation laid by earlier investment in the Bridgegate area of the town. A new community centre has also been completed in Fullarton.

The SURF Awards judges were extremely impressed by the wide ranging approach to delivering positive change across Irvine. The involvement of the local community in identifying and delivering the



Annickbank Innovation Campus is among the new developments in Irvine

priorities important to them was clear. The new Fullarton Community Hub, operated by the local community and bringing together support for families and different generations, is evidently a huge success.

Physical works have been delivered across the town that reflect the views of Irvine residents. The reopening of the Townhouse alongside leisure facilities, extensive public realm works and the redevelopment of Trinity Church have delivered significant improvements to the town centre. Financial investment in the i3 site and other business bases have also improved access to employment opportunities in the town.



The reworked Portal Townhouse facility opened in 2017

There is obvious genuine pride taken by North Ayrshire Council and community partners in the progress that has been made. Combined, the regeneration activities in Irvine have had a transformative effect on the town centre, improving its image and making it more attractive for visitors, business and residents.



Shortlisted

Middlefield

Middlefield is a residential neighbourhood situated two miles north west of Aberdeen city centre. The main social housing developments forming the area were built between the 1920s-1950s.

Middlefield has faced a number of social and economic problems in recent decades and has several areas ranked within the 15% most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.



Aberdeen City Council has designated Middlefield as a priority neighbourhood for regeneration, and recently made over £50m in capital investments to support opportunities for local residents. The capital programme comprises Manor Park Primary School, Community Wing and Police Station, Middlefield Community Hub, Aberdeen Treasure Hub, and improvements to the housing stock.

Access to public services have improved greatly since the new Community Hub opened. Its Community Café has developed into a real heart for the community, providing a meeting place where elderly and isolated people can meet to eat.

In addition to the physical works, a Community Street Audit enabled members of the community to highlight areas of priority. This centred around improving areas such as pedestrian access and reducing traffic and parking congestion. The Council is progressing these priorities as part of a new partnership with the Friends of Heathryfold Park community group. A Northern Wi-Fi digital inclusion pilot project has also been delivered to tailor service availability to local needs.

Community satisfaction levels were initially measured in 2015, which showed that 71% of the Middlefield community indicated that they were either satisfied, very satisfied or neutral with their sense of belonging in the local community. A subsequent exercise in 2017 showed an increase to 77%.

The judges were impressed with their visit to Middlefield, in which the Council has demonstrated exceptional levels of community engagement with a wide range of partners. Considerable pride was evident in the positive changes that have been achieved over recent years. The new locally managed Hub gathering place is helping to break down barriers and connect with people that have not always engaged in the past.

The Council's locality planning approach has already delivered positive impacts for local people and has enabled greater decision-making by the community. The connected services at the Hub and the new school will continue to yield positive results, while enhanced housing and the development of the Haudigan Road triangle will further enhance confidence in the community's future.

Shawlands

Shawlands is a town centre and high street in the heart of Glasgow's southside, with a surrounding population of 45,000 residents. In common with many high streets across Scotland, Shawlands has faced a number of challenges in the past three decades arriving from changes in consumer habits and the retail environment.

The Shawlands Town Centre Action Plan was created in response to this difficult situation, aiming to reinvigorate the town centre and attract new business. Discussions between Glasgow City Council, Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council and local businesses began in 2009. These were informed by a consumer survey of 1200 people. The completed plan, worth £3.3 million and to be delivered over five years, was approved in 2012.



So far, the plan has delivered a number of physical improvements to the area and has served as a catalyst for a wider improvement with regards to new businesses and housing. Key improvements have been made to the quality of lighting, footways and access, with better linkages between the high street and the surrounding area. The local architectural quality has been improved with the creation of the Shawlands Cross Conservation Area in 2013, supported by shop front improvements and Council heritage grants.

Since the plan's inception, £340m worth of housing and cultural investment has been announced for the area, with over 700 new homes set to be built nearby. Developers have pointed to proximity to Shawlands as a key factor in their decision to build. A number of high quality businesses have been attracted to the area, including the award-winning Glad Café.

These developments have been supported by strong community engagement and branding, pushed through the area's Southside Film and Fringe festivals, serving to emphasise Shawlands' unique and diverse character.

The SURF Awards judging panel noted that Shawlands has strong place qualities, which the local partners have built into a distinct approach, bringing together the community, business base, Council, Shawlands Academy and other stakeholders. The consistent stewardship of the project by the Council and its long-term engagement with local partners has been fundamental to sustaining a focused effort on the area in the past ten years.

The judges were particularly impressed with the active engagement of local businesses in the Action Plan. While there are some national chains, the strong presence from independent traders and social enterprises has helped to establish a unique local offer that goes beyond standard retail. With the forthcoming creation of a Civic Square that will further enhance Shawlands and create a new place for more community events and cultural activities, the Action Plan has created significant added potential for the area's future.

SURF Awards...

Each December, some of the best regeneration projects in the country get a well-earned boost by receiving a SURF Award. But what happens next? We asked each of the 2016 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

Lochgelly

2016 SURF Award Winner, Scotland's Most Improved Town

What a fantastically positive year it has been for Lochgelly since winning Scotland's Most Improved Town award in December 2016. On winning the award, pride throughout the town soared, with copies of the certificate on display in the Community Shop and in the reception areas of public buildings throughout the town.



The people of Lochgelly were really proud that THEIR town had been recognised at a national level. There was, and is, a real buzz which will last through 2018 and beyond. Each school in the town received a copy of the SURF Award, so that young people could see and share the success of their place and know that they live and learn in Scotland's Most Improved Town.

Lochgelly received national media interest and its journey of people and place, its model, and its approaches to place-based community development have been the subject of many articles, key learning topics at conferences, and other shared learning activities over the last year.

Lochgelly was one of the key examples of place-based community development at the National Strengthening Communities Conference hosted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in September 2017. In October 2017, it hosted a learning visit for Lochee community members so that we could share practice and lessons learned.

The journey continues for Lochgelly with the community driving forward their own action plan priorities. Since winning the Award a new heritage trail has opened, Growing in Lochgelly, which has itself won national awards for their floral enhancements throughout the town. New plans for a state of the art heritage centre are also being developed.

By Hazel Cross, Economic Adviser, Fife Council

Street League

2016 SURF Award Winner, Youth Employability: Removing Barriers

Since winning a SURF Award in 2016, Street League services have gone from strength to strength and during 2017 has continued to grow.



We have:

- Been awarded the largest Employability Fund contract by Skills Development Scotland;
- Moved into delivery of Modern Apprenticeships;
- Expanded our European Social Fund and National Third Sector Fund activity;
- Achieved Investors in Young People Gold accreditation as well as the ISO9001 Quality Standard;
- Launched our provision in Dundee.

Our services are on course, for the third consecutive financial year, to progress more than 1000 young people into work, education and training.

Our SURF Award attracted interest from Scottish media. In November, we were featured in Scotland's leading business magazine, Business Insider, and celebrated for our social impact and commercial acumen.

We are grateful to SURF for choosing us as their winners in 2016 and are very proud of our Award. We feel it is acknowledgement of the collective hard work, dedication and excellence of all our people at Street League.

By Tracy Davidson, Education and Training Manager, Street League
Project Website: www.streetleague.co.uk/scotland

Not just for Christmas!

The Stove Network

2016 SURF Award Winner, **Creative Regeneration**

We were particularly delighted and honoured to win a 2016 SURF Award because we think SURF is unique as a network that connects across a wide range of agendas and approaches involved in place-making. We love the fact that you can sit down at a SURF gig with a politician, a village hall committee, a social worker, a housing developer, and a financial strategist!

Winning the SURF Award worked in very practical ways for us – it gave us a ‘kitemark’ of quality assurance when we sat down to work with larger agencies like the local authority, NHS Board, and housing associations... people who might not normally encounter artists in a strategic conversation and so wouldn’t have a measure to gauge us against in their own experience.



Being ‘award-winning’ has got us on the invite list to speak at conferences and brought researchers and other very interesting contacts to our door – we genuinely feel part of a national conversation these days. This has tangible impacts for our work in Dumfries. The impact and confidence boost is very powerful for local people to see their ‘ane toon’ mentioned in national media. The national figures who beat a path to The Stove these days are all welcomed in our local media.

In our field of socially-engaged arts practice, the SURF ‘Creative Regeneration’ Award is one of *the* Scottish benchmarks – it is up to all of us in the sector to keep upping the game and keep creativity and community at the centre of the national regeneration debate.

By Matt Baker, Founder & Orchestrator, The Stove Network
Project Website: <http://www.thestove.org>

Tomintoul & Glenlivet Regeneration Project

2016 SURF Award Winner,
Community Led Regeneration

2016-17 was another incredibly busy year at Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT), and has seen us go from strength to strength in taking on new assets, growing the staff and volunteer team, and cementing our place as a key community anchor organisation in our area.



Our asset acquisition and improvement has characterised the 2016-17 financial year with major steps forward at the hostel and museum, which TGDT own on behalf of our community. Significant improvements were made to both facilities, with much-needed double glazing and a small campsite going into the hostel.

At the museum, we have secured planning permission and building warrants and begun the major museum refurbishment. The first part of the museum to reopen is the new business centre, formerly a derelict two bedroom flat, which will allow the new Landscape Partnership team to be based together in Tomintoul.

Acquiring and developing two key assets in our area has prompted TGDT to think carefully about the future for the organisation. The Board of TGDT have recently developed a new community development plan for the period 2018-22.

By Oliver Giles, Development Officer, TGDT
Project Website: www.tgdt.org.uk

“The SURF Awards exists to demonstrate that regeneration does work, that communities and partner agencies can deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements by collaborating intelligently. We hope the interventions profiled in these pages provide inspiration and practical learning to everyone involved in Scottish community regeneration.”



Andy Milne
Chief Executive, SURF



As Scotland’s regeneration forum, SURF’s overall objective is to address poverty and inequality in Scotland’s disadvantaged communities.

SURF is the primary arena for debate on community regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its extensive membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, policy exchanges, research programmes, an annual awards for best practice, responding to policy consultations, and distributing information and publications.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge, with which to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice.

SURF is a registered charity that was founded 25 years ago in 1992. It is directed by a Board of 17 Trustees drawn from its extensive membership.

We have a database of over 3000 regeneration contacts and a membership of over 250 organisations from across Scotland.

SURF members range in size from small community groups to large private companies and also include local authorities, academic institutions, housing associations, charities and professional bodies.

Further information on SURF’s activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website:
www.surf.scot





SURF Awards Learning Workshops

With support from the Scottish Government, SURF will be arranging workshop events in May 2018 to explore transferable lessons from the success of the five winning SURF Awards projects.

To receive information on these free and informal learning exchange events, please sign up for our mailing list at the following link or contact the SURF events team on 0141 440 6392.

www.surf.scot/stay-informed

Members and Sponsors

SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 250 member organisations, and in particular from its 12 key delivery partners. Their backing provides the political, administrative and financial independence that helps SURF play a unique role in linking policy and practice across all of the sectors concerned with regenerating Scotland's communities.

