



University of
St Andrews | FOUNDED
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Community Connections

2024



Introduction from the Principal

I am pleased to share the second edition of Community Connections which celebrates the involvement of our students and staff in their communities, in St Andrews and beyond.

At the heart of our institution lies a steadfast commitment to fostering meaningful relationships, nurturing social responsibility, and driving positive civic change.

Our University stands as a beacon of knowledge and enlightenment, not confined within the walls of lecture halls and libraries but extending far beyond into the fabric of our local and global communities. It is through our dedication to serving the common good that we continue to make progress to distinguish ourselves.

A cornerstone of our community engagement efforts is the University of St Andrews Community Fund. This initiative provides vital financial support to innovative projects and grassroots initiatives that address pressing societal challenges. Through the University Community Fund, we support the empowerment of individuals and local organisations to enact positive change and shape a better future for all.

Furthermore, the outreach work of our Schools and Units exemplifies our unwavering commitment to education accessibility and inclusivity. By engaging with local primary and secondary schools and communities across Fife, we strive to inspire and empower individuals from all walks of life, unlocking their full potential and nurturing a lifelong love for learning.

Beyond our educational endeavours, the University plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth and prosperity across the region. Through our research, innovation and enterprise activities we contribute significantly to the economic vitality of Fife, creating jobs, fostering entrepreneurship, and driving innovation.

As stewards of knowledge and agents of change, we recognise that our responsibility transcends the confines of academia. We are deeply invested in the well-being and prosperity of the community which we call home, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to harnessing the transformative power of education for the greater good.

I extend my deepest gratitude to every member of our community, both within the University and across Fife, for your unwavering dedication, passion, and commitment to making a difference. Together, we will continue to serve as a beacon of hope, inspiration, and positive change.



Professor Dame Sally Mapstone DBE FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



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The University of St Andrews at a glance



**TOP IN THE
UK FOR
STUDENT
SATISFACTION**

National Student
Survey 2023

Snapshot

- 4 faculties, 19 schools, 30 units
- 3250 staff
- Non-pay spend of **£118M** for 22/23
- 19.38% was with 205 local suppliers
- **£22,868,400** of spend within Fife suppliers
- A further 500 suppliers an additional spend of approximately **£22million** for suppliers in PH, FK, DD and EH postcodes.
- 100% of spend with small or medium-sized enterprises (SME) or with a large proportion was made to micro and small companies.
- 96.08% of students entering employment or further study after graduation

The Wardlaw Museum

- 46,522 visitors to the Wardlaw Museum annually
- 98% of visitors to the Wardlaw Museum would recommend a visit to the Museum
- 193 community events
- 4544 event participants
- 25 school sessions with 607 pupils
- 55,859 video views and podcast listens.
- Amazonian Antics activity day at the Wardlaw Museum on May Day 2023 welcomed more than 800 participants.

The Byre Theatre

The 2024 St Andrews Pantomime, Cinderella

- 10,683 tickets were sold over 53 performances
- 2133 attendees were from local schools – who benefit from low priced tickets for pupils and many free tickets for teachers
- Programmes were **free**
- There were **three** special performances, two relaxed for (people with learning disabilities or autism, or anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment) and one audio described.

Audience feedback from the pantomime, Cinderella:

- Best yet!! We have been 5X!!
- So impressive-simply amazing
- We loved it! 7 years in a row! still coming back
- Show of the year, nay CENTURY
- Loved youth cast – Smiles and energy
- One of the best, wish it would never end
- We love this every year!! Thank you
- Better than all the rest. Honestly the best Pantomime I've been to!

Community Group Performances

- The Byre hosted 7 community groups who together gave 22 performances to a total of 3422 ticket buyers.
- Byre Youth and Community Arts presented a number of shows including the Guizards, *Who Goes Bare?*



University Community Fund

- **245** applications received to date
- **10** funding rounds undertaken to date
- **£260+** awarded to date (**£263,878.08**)
- **150+** projects, groups and organisations

Transition University of St Andrews

The St AndReuse

- **65%** of customers are students
- **30%** wider community members
- **5%** staff

Since 2009:

- St AndReuse have rehomed over **40 tonnes** of reusable household items
- Averted **200 tonnes** of CO2 emissions
- Helped people in our community save more than **£500K**.

In 2019 they partnered with the British Heart Foundation and donated **20.4 tonnes** of clothing raising a total of **£234,273**.

Toolshare Library

Last year, **331** tools were borrowed, benefitting **63** individuals.

Bike Pool

More than **270** bikes were repaired in 2023 at over **70** public events.

Transition provides access to a **fleet of cargo and adapted cycles** for locals to borrow at free or low cost.

Gleaning

In 2023 the team redistributed **340kg** of potatoes, **50kg** of broccoli, and **270kg** of organic swedes, with the help of more than **70** gleaning volunteers, including students and the wider community, many of whom were children.

Junior Saints

- Ran two Summer Schools in June 2023 to **150** children
- Delivered CPD coaching sessions to Madras College Sport Students
- Worked with First Choices (Admissions) to deliver sporting activities to **90** prospective students
- Delivered Volunteer recruitment presentations to St Leonards School
- Presented Job opportunities within Saint Sport recruitment and careers talks at Abertay University
- Took part in a career fair offering opportunities for paid/voluntary positions within the Children Services Department.
- Supported Work Experience placement for Madras College across Sport and the Nursery

University Nursery

- Donations made to the local Foodbank
- Visits to the local library
- Learning about recycling locally
- Working with the local Countryside Ranger to undertake beach cleans

University Community Fund

The University Community Fund (UCF) was launched by the Principal in early 2020, recognising the importance the University places on supporting grassroots organisations and projects, and the role they play in the local area.

As of March 2024, the University Community Fund has operated ten funding rounds, providing more than £260k to approximately 150 projects, groups and organisations across Fife that deliver tangible benefits for local communities.

The Community Fund can adapt and react to specific circumstances to ensure it meets the needs of wider society including the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living and energy crisis.

Applications of between £250 and £3000 are invited. The panel looks for projects which meet some of the criteria below:

- benefit communities in the local area
- increase engagement between the University and the community
- promote knowledge exchange and widen participation
- promote environmental sustainability
- promote diversity and inclusion
- celebrate the local area's heritage, whether physical or cultural

As the cost-of-living crisis continued into 2023, the UCF panel was keen to receive applications that responded to the needs of the community during this crisis.

In 2023 alone, the University Community Fund supported a total of 49 projects to the accumulated financial total of £85,027.87. 60% of the applications received were supported financially.

The community fund benefits from a direct donation from the University plus contributions from our global alumni network and other donors.

The donations to the community fund reflect the continuing attachment that many Alumni and supporters feel towards the University and the wider community. The UCF panel is grateful to all the donors to date and all those who continue to support our fund and its activities.



Principal Professor Dame Sally Mapstone and Cambo Heritage Trust Managing Director Keri Ivins at the gardens

Across 2023, the fund supported projects such as:

The Dino Club, a wraparound childcare provider based in Newburgh, was awarded £1500 to support science and art activities, providing materials and enabling children to access Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education opportunities at no cost to children in the local community.

Fife Gingerbread for its **Day2Play** programme. Fife Gingerbread is a charity based in Glenrothes that supports lone parents and underprivileged children across the north east of Fife. The charity was awarded £1500 to help families make memories over the summer – including bus tickets, attraction tickets, food and play equipment.

Cambo Heritage Trust's Compost Club – which offers adults and young people the chance to volunteer and gain valuable work experience at the same time – was awarded £1800 for its efforts to reduce or reuse waste positively around the gardens. Since it was launched the Compost Club has developed to include the creation of a 'dead hedge' in the children's play area that promotes biodiversity; composted all green waste from the café including coffee grounds, tissues, and paper towels; and established 'no dig' beds in the vegetable garden with waste cardboard and homemade compost.

LINK – East Fife Mental Health Adolescent Befriending Project, a youth volunteering charity were awarded £1550 to support the expansion of their project, enabling 8 new volunteers to befriend vulnerable young people in East Fife, Levenmouth and Glenrothes.

Dairsie Repair Cafe, a new project set up at the Dairsie War Memorial Hall, was awarded £800 to support the launch of the new initiative and its running costs for a year. The funding requested was used to purchase a PAT testing machine, some essential tools and to support the heating and refreshment costs across 10 sessions.

University Community Fund Showcase Event

In January 2024, the Principal hosted a University Community Fund reception to showcase local projects and mark three full years of the fund. Following the reception, guests had the opportunity to browse a colourful array of stalls in Upper College Hall, hosted by 25 groups which have benefited from the University Community Fund.

During this drop-in session, community groups made connections with each other, and members of the University community were able to drop in to learn more about local projects and find out about volunteering opportunities.



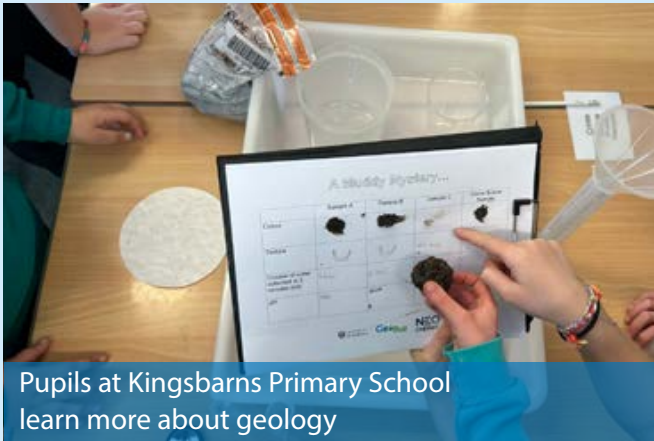
St Andrews Repair Cafe and Dairsie Repair Cafe compare notes



Jane Maciver from LINK – East Fife Mental Health Adolescent Befriending Project

Schools and Units

Geobus driving knowledge across Fife



Pupils at Kingsbarns Primary School learn more about geology

Launched in 2012, GeoBus is a free educational outreach project for schools developed and run by the University's School of Earth & Environmental Sciences. So far, GeoBus has visited 250 primary and secondary schools, providing interactive workshops for more than 80,000 pupils.

In particular, GeoBus highlights career opportunities in Geology, and more generally in the fields of Earth Sciences and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics).

So far over the 2023/2024 academic year, the GeoBus team has worked with Madras College and Bell Baxter High School as well as running new workshops with pupils at Pitteuchar West Primary School in Glenrothes and Kingsbarns Primary School. GeoBus is due to visit Kings Road Primary School in Rosyth in May.

The team has also welcomed teachers from four Fife primary schools and two Fife secondary schools on the Professional Learning courses run in St Andrews. The team worked with family groups at Science Saturday at Largo Library and Community Hub in November and will be attending the Fife Show in May, where they will be providing drop-in activities throughout the day.

In 2023 GeoBus also extended its outreach to communities across the globe with the launch of GeoBus Without Borders. This new international project provides teachers in a range of countries with practical ideas and resources for hands-on delivery of Earth science concepts in their schools. The first GeoBus Without Borders course took place in Windhoek, Namibia in October 2023, working with teachers from across the country.

GeoBus is funded by sponsorship and we are very grateful for the support from NEO Energy.

Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling (CREEM)

The Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling (CREEM) is an interdisciplinary research centre that includes researchers from the Schools of Mathematics and Statistics, Biology, and Computer Science.

The team promotes the importance of quantitative skills in biological and environmental sciences and real-world applications of maths and statistics. The team provides a range of fun, hands-on activities showing different ways of counting the number of animals in wildlife populations – not an easy task when considering the number of whales in the ocean, or monkeys in a dense forest!

Outreach activities provide a range of materials and talks that enable the team to contribute to primary school projects centered around marine pollution and the impacts of noise as a pollutant on marine mammals. Over the past few years, the team have engaged with local primary and secondary schools, the public at science fairs, and helped several local uniformed groups achieve their Scientist Badge.

Careers Centre



Fife Gingerbread stand at the Part-time Jobs and Volunteering Fair

On 6 March 2023, the University's Career Centre hosted their first ever Part-time Jobs and Volunteering Jobs Fair. Part-time work and volunteering are great ways for students to gain valuable work experience for their CV, develop their transferable skills, and earn some money during their studies. The fair was a huge success with 167 students attending the event and a wide range of local businesses and charities hosting stalls including Families First, Fife Gingerbread, Fife Voluntary Action, St Andrews Environmental Network, The Old Course Hotel, the R&A and the National Trust for Scotland.

Bookmaking Workshop



Canongate Primary's Bookmaking workshop

In May 2023, Dr Patrick O'Hare from the Department of Social Anthropology, ran a Cardboard Bookmaking workshop at Canongate Primary for Primary 6's. Following the successful event, he invited the school's Primary 4's to the University to talk about plastic, where it comes from, how it contributes to pollution, and how reduction, re-use, and recycling can play a role in tackling this issue, as well as discussing his work on the UN plastic pollution treaty.

Bat chat for children and young people



Scientists share their knowledge with local young people at an event in Dundee Science Centre

In February and March 2024, colleagues in the School of Biology, led by Professor Sonja Vernes, worked with the Dundee Science Centre to introduce school pupils aged 8-11 to the scientific work the University does in relation to bats. To date, the team have talked to over 300 school pupils, leaving many with a new-found appreciation for the cool flying mammals.

For International Woman's Day 2024, the team from the Neurobiology of Vocal Communication lab were invited to the local Girl Guides group to talk to 150 young women and girls about women in STEM.

And finally, as part of the First Chances Fife event, the team ran 30-minute workshops for approximately 120 young people aged 11-13 from schools across Fife.

School of Computer Science opens its doors

Following a successful Doors Open Day in 2023, the School of Computer Science repeated the event in April 2024. Set across a whole day during the Easter break, the Doors Open Day included 60+ individual demos and workshops. Presenting these were both staff and students, with representation from first year right through to PhD students.

Demonstrations included coursework and research projects and represented some of the highlights from the academic year, which were set across the rooms, offices and teaching spaces in the School of Computer Science.

Magic moves from the School of Chemistry

ScotChem, a project within the School of Chemistry, runs a community outreach programme using magic to teach basic scientific principles. Working across chemistry and chemistry-related departments in Scottish Universities under the banner of 'ScotChem ACADEMIA', they connect the chemical science industries in Scotland under the banner of 'ScotChem INDUSTRIES' and the Chemical Sciences Industry Leadership Group, and deliver community outreach under the banner of 'ScotChem COMMUNITIES'.

The team have three chemists who are Magic Circle magicians, including their CEO, St Andrews-based Professor Bill MacDonald.

The project is funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry to develop the idea into a programme that can be rolled out across the UK.

The aim is to target under-represented and low-socio-economic communities.



The ScotChem team have already successfully delivered several workshops across Scotland

School of Classics

The School of Classics hosted students from the Sutton Trust in the 2023 summer school. In total, three days of sessions were run by Classics.

Mary Woodcock Kroble, Computing Officer in the School of Classics, led a session on 'Local and Global in the Roman World', to 100 participants of the First Chances Fife Summer School 3.

In 2021, the School of Classics launched the St Andrews Latin Outreach Scheme (STALOS). The scheme runs activities that aim to:

- Introduce Latin to Scottish state school pupils in an enjoyable way.
- Help move Latin onto regular curricula and timetables in local schools.
- Raise awareness of the subject areas further across the region and nation.

In December 2023 staff and students from the School of Classics welcomed two classes of lunchtime Latin learners to the University. Pupils from Monifieth High School and Grove Academy enjoyed a full day of activities beginning with a student-led opening session on life and University and the importance of Classical Studies and the Latin language.



Pupils have an appetite for lunchtime Latin

Widening access



St Andrews welcomes local school pupils as part of its widening access outreach programme

Fair access and widening participation

The University is committed to improving equality of access for students from a diversity of backgrounds and many of these students come from within our local community. Contextual admissions processes along with supported pathways into undergraduate study, part-time study, and several pre-applicant Fair Access projects are now established. These have contributed to a significant increase in the number of students from under-resourced backgrounds choosing to apply and accept a place at St Andrews for their undergraduate degree.

The University seeks to ensure that no applicant with the potential to do well is disadvantaged by social and economic background. Over 12% of Scottish Domiciled entrants in 2023 to St Andrews came from SIMD Quintile 1 postcode areas and 3% of Home Funded entrants were care experienced.

Supported pathways and Lifelong Learning:

These pathways not only provide entry routes but also come with pre-arrival and transitional support to ensure students have the best start at St Andrews and can achieve their full potential.

To support Lifelong Learning, the University also offers a part-time MA Combined Studies programme and upskilling opportunities designed specifically for those returning outreach.

Current activities and outreach programmes include:

National Schools Programme (NSP) – established through the Scottish Funding Council, with the overall aim of widening participation in high-demand professions.

Sutton Trust Summer Schools – The University hosts a free week-long summer school each year for state school pupils.

First Chances Fife (FCF) – St Andrews works with pupils in most secondary schools in Fife providing support in accessing University study.

Experience Medicine – delivered in partnership with NHS Fife offers prospective Medicine applicants the opportunity to get work experience in a medical setting.

Access to Rural Communities (ARC) – a project aimed at supporting and enabling young learners from rural communities in Scotland on their journey into university.

Volunteering

Students and staff making a difference

Across the University there is a silent army of staff and students spending much of their own time helping others by volunteering in their community. From leading cub and beaver packs to helping local charities or supporting environmental improvements, many are finding that giving back is a great way to meet new people and make a real difference.

The students and staff featured here are just a very small example of the hundreds across Schools and Units involved in volunteering.

Janet Lovett,
Lecturer, School of Physics and Astronomy

Where do you volunteer and what is your role?
70th Fife (Ceres) Cub Scouts

How did you get involved?
My eldest was in Beavers and I was asked to be an assistant Beaver leader, possibly because I'd mentioned being a Girl Guide back in the day. I enjoyed it but decided I'd like to move to Cubs as my eldest went there by then, and somehow I became Akela.

Would you recommend volunteering to others?

Yes. It has offered many of the most rewarding times outside of my family life in the last few years. And I hope I'm helping others too!

What has been the highlight of your volunteering work?

I enjoy it all and scouting is so varied! I love that you meet so many children and like-minded adults. In 2022 I volunteered for Cub ScotJam at Lochgoilhead where I took part in challenges alongside the Cubs that I never thought I'd do like climbing telegraph poles and diving off giant SUPs!



Janet Lovett taking part in ScotJam

Undergraduate students Rachel Boote and Scarlett Kim
University of St Andrews Dog Walking Society

Rachel and Scarlett volunteer with the University of St Andrews Dog Walking Society. The group is the biggest University Society and has forged a mutually beneficial relationship with the local community. In return for walks and dog-sitting, students benefit from spending time with some four-legged friends. The Society has also won multiple awards.

Where do you volunteer and what is your role?

We are the former co-presidents of the Dog Walking Society however everyone that is a part of the society volunteers! The committee volunteer their time to set up events for students to attend, organising and bringing residents' dogs along to our dog walks at the weekend and dog cuddling during the week. We also volunteer our time to set up group chats between our student members and residents, overseeing the group chats where students can offer to take out residents' dogs on solo walks and/or bring them along to our events!

How did you get involved?

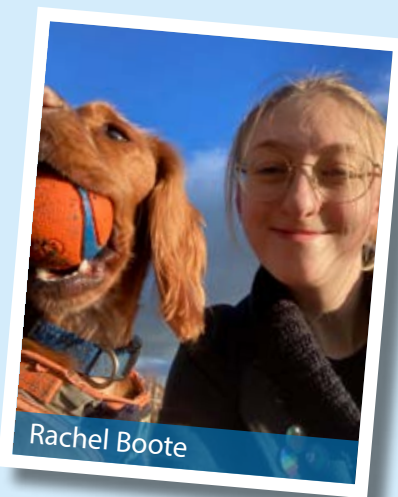
We both got involved during our third years when we became Student Outreach and Community Outreach and this year, in our final year, we have been co-presidents.

Would you recommend volunteering to others?

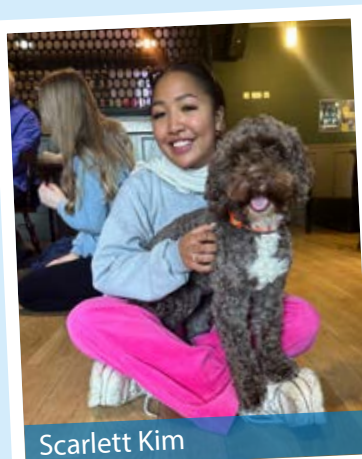
Absolutely! With Dog Walking Society, volunteering is a brilliant way to give back to the local community and students at the University.

What has been the highlight of your volunteering work?

Working with dogs that are anxious when they start coming to our events and helping them become more confident. Plus, the dogs in general are always a highlight, they are so cute!



Rachel Boote



Scarlett Kim

Adrian Wood, Director of Procurement

Where do you volunteer and what is your role?

I'm one of the Event Directors and Run Directors of Parkrun St Andrews. I'm also Treasurer of the Spider Park St Andrews Community Group and have various committee roles at East Fife Triathlon Club.

How did you get involved?

Initially as a participant and occasional volunteering roles before becoming one of the Event Directors (Supporting the main Event Director) and as a Run Director. My involvement in Spider Park was through my partner and I'm a member of the Tri Club as well.

Would you recommend volunteering to others?

Absolutely!

What has been the highlight of your volunteering work?

The ongoing success of parkrun (now averaging over 250 participants every week). The successful completion of a new Skate Park late last year at Pipeland Road in St Andrews.



The hard work of Adrian and other volunteers has made the vision for Spider Park become a reality

Photograph © The Courier

In the community

Several staff members also contribute to the St Andrews and North East Fife community with their commitment to the retained fire service. Though it's a paid role, their involvement often sees them go above and beyond for their communities. It's thanks to the support of employers like the University, they're able to be on call and respond when needed.

Scott Grant

Small Works Co-ordinator, Estates

What organisation are you involved in and what is your role?

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – On Call Firefighter.

How did you get involved?

Being a firefighter is something I always wanted to do from a young age – my mum has the pictures to prove it! The chance to serve in my local community held an extra appeal. I already knew some of those at the station so there was a strong community feel to the role already in place.

Would you recommend serving in the community to others?

In a heartbeat, it's never felt like work in the 10 years I've been in the service. It does come with some tough moments, but the camaraderie of the station makes it enjoyable and very rewarding, especially when you can see the impact you can have in helping people. Unfortunately, we can never predict when the call is going to come and there are instances where it's not as convenient as it should be but that's the nature of the job. However, having great family support round you does help, they know you have to drop everything to go and help someone potentially in their worst moment. All my family and work colleagues are incredibly supportive of that. Having recently moved to Estates from Saints Sport both departments within the University have been really supportive of this role and the availability requests that comes with it.

What has been the highlight of your work in the community?

In a nutshell it's about helping people. The role goes beyond attending incidents as we also provide Home Fire Safety visits which are very rewarding and help keep our communities safe. The creation of our social media pages has also been great.

Last summer we held an open day and raised money for three fantastic charities; TCCL Lodge, Heartstart and The Firefighters Charity. We also support Andy's Man Club, the talking group for men, and the group now meets at St Andrews fire station on a Monday night at 7pm. They are an incredibly welcoming bunch and I would encourage anyone to use this facility [#ITSGOODTOTALK](#)



Scott Grant, on call Firefighter

Cost of living

Like many countries, Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom continues to be affected by inflationary pressures which have impacted the cost of living.

The University and its Students' Association cannot solve the current economic crisis, but there have been steps taken, as institutions to provide practical support, targeted financial help, and information where it is most needed.

The Students' Association Campus Larder launched in October of 2023, and is open to all staff and students at various days and times across the week.

The Larder provides basic items and food, from cereal to biscuits, to washing detergent, sponges and pasta, and are available for free, no questions asked.

The average visitor to the Campus Larder leaves with a bag of items worth about £15. This often includes staples such as milk and cereal, pasta, rice and sauces, toiletries (toilet roll and hygiene products) and some snacks for busy days of studying. The Larder intentionally stocks many international food products to support the diverse student community.

So far, the University and Students' Association have supported over 300 visits to the Larder since it was first established, with many students noting that it has provided them with a critical lifeline.



St Andrews remains as home for many students over the winter break. Some remain in Halls, whilst others remain in private accommodation spread across the town, and indeed Fife and Dundee.

In 2022 and 2023, the University provided vouchers for all students who were staying in St Andrews over the festive period to spend in St Andrews. A £10 Love

St Andrews and £20 Aldi voucher was made available for students to pick up and use over the winter break. Across the 2023 winter break, approximately 450 vouchers were collected, boosting the local economy in what is often a quiet period.

In November 2022 the University launched a pilot scheme with bus operator Stagecoach to offer staff and students 75% off bus tickets across East Scotland. This scheme aimed to provide financial support during the cost-of-living and energy crisis and to help the University meet ambitious net-zero targets.

The success of the scheme throughout 2023 exceeded all expectations: During the year staff and students (aged over 22) have saved almost £700,000 in travel costs while an increase in bus use and a decline in car journeys, has also saved 614 tonnes of carbon. In March this year the scheme hit the £1 million mark in savings for students and staff.

A survey by the University's Transition team produced evidence of the difference the discount made to stretched household budgets. One staff member described the scheme as "life changing".

Following a review, the University agreed to continue the discount into 2024. It also worked with local bus operator Moffat & Williamson to extend the service to students and staff living in more rural areas not covered by Stagecoach services.

During 2023 the University invested £438,913 in supporting the scheme. Stagecoach also contributed over £250,000 to the cost, ensuring the amount paid by passengers stayed at just 25%.

This unique partnership has received national recognition, reaching the finals of the UK Bus Awards held in London in late November 2023.



The bus discount subsidy has saved staff and students over £1million in just over a year

Transition University of St Andrews

St AndReuse is a townwide partnership project between Transition and St Andrews Environmental Network, that aims to tackle waste, save carbon, keep money in people's pockets and build community, by sharing what we no longer need.

The team works with key collaborators across Fife and Dundee, helping to ensure the project reaches those in greatest need, including local charities such as Fife Women's Aid, Dunfermline Clothes Bank, YMCA Glenrothes, Tayside and Strathearn Help for Ukraine as well as local primary and secondary schools, churches, seasonal workers via the farms network and long-term patients in hospitals.

Transition developed a series of **Repair & Advice Cafes**, inviting local experts in repairing items

including watches, clocks, clothes, musical instruments, electrical items and ceramics and including advisory services from, amongst others, the University PC Clinic. They offer advice on how to run security and optimisation health checks on devices such as smartphones, laptops and tablets, to increase their longevity. They can also arrange safe and responsible disposal of devices that are no longer working via their charity partner ReusingIT.

Transition also organises other **skillshare events** that include sewing, crocheting, foraging, upcycling, no-dig gardening, and decoration-making with natural or repurposed materials. Many of the skillshares are led or co-led by student volunteers. All these events are open to the community and are family-friendly to encourage intergenerational learning and relationship-building.

In 2023, Transition set up a **gleaning network** to redistribute unharvested vegetables from farmers' fields to community cafes and fridges across North East Fife, including the newly established Student's Association Campus Larder. Gleaning is the historic practice of people coming together to ensure that crops left behind in the field do not go to waste. They are collected with farmers' permission and can help alleviate food poverty. Transition currently works with five local farmers and plan to work with many more.

Since February 2023, Transition has run an **online after school cooking club** every week during term time. The focus is on low-cost, healthy and sustainable vegetarian meals, snacks and desserts, using as much local and seasonal produce as possible. With parents leading busy lives, the club helps families plan a dedicated time each week to commit to cooking together.

Transition helps coordinate a **River Guardian** citizen science project. Trained by BugLife Scotland in February 2023, a small but dedicated team of staff, students and locals meet regularly to undertake biological water monitoring on the Kinnessburn river in St Andrews. The group hosts groups of young people from local schools and the Scouts and Guides to raise awareness about the project and to help schools achieve their outdoor learning objectives.



The Repair cafe launched in January 2024 and helps support the University's ambition to make St Andrews a more sustainable community

Saints Sport

The Saints Volunteer programme offers students many opportunities to add value to their University education, enhance their global awareness, develop their leadership skills and improve their teaching and coaching abilities.

All projects use sport, leadership and education as a tool to empower and enrich communities and make a difference to the lives of young people, including nurturing a culture of volunteering in our University students.

The close integration of the University and the town of St Andrews helps our student coaches to get involved in projects in the local area and help facilitate the development of sport through extra-curricular sporting activity including taster sessions, after school clubs and sport specific training.

Saints Sport have developed good relationships with key partners such as Fife Council's Active Schools and Active Fife teams as well as local charities, schools and community sports clubs to ensure that we can offer projects that benefit the local community whilst providing a positive and rewarding experience for our students.

During the 2022-23 academic year, fourteen sports clubs delivered local community activities organised through club outreach officers.



The **Tennis for Girls** community programme was launched in Academic Year 2023-24 and is planned, organised and run by a team of 13 student volunteers from the University Tennis Club, who dedicate their time each week to deliver dedicated tennis sessions. Each lesson has at least 4 qualified coaches present, allowing the Tennis Club to provide playing opportunities for mini

red, mini orange and full ball players by running three different sessions side by side. The programme has been a huge success, seeing many of the girls progressing from red ball to orange, parents trying tennis for the first time and volunteers progressing through their coaching qualifications. The hard work put in by each volunteer has made the sessions something the girls look forward to every week. Parents have credited the programme for helping the girls' confidence and skills and for bringing back their own love of tennis, which would never be possible without the amazing team of coaches.



Getting on board with the Wave Project

The Wave Project Scotland is a mental health charity for children offering surfing courses to help them overcome challenges in their lives. The project welcomes young people from 8-18 years along to the beach for 6 consecutive weeks to spend time 1:1 with a surf mentor on the sand and in the water. Children are referred from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), schools and GPs, and are facing a range of challenges including bereavement, social isolation and learning difficulties.

Over six weeks they spend time together in a safe, positive environment playing, talking and learning to surf – above all they have fun. The project is supported by the University Surf Club, with 22 students having volunteered as tutors during the surf sessions. The club has also raised money for the charity through a variety of fundraising campaigns and initiatives, such as the Wavey Ceilidh, raffle and Music Bingo and donating 20% of the proceeds from the sale of club caps/beanies, and students have helped at the Wave Project's coffee and cake mornings.

The University has contributed to the success of the programme in St Andrews by donating surf boards to the project to enable more children to participate as well as a University Community Fund award of £1500 in 2021.

The **Saints International Volunteering** programmes in Africa have been running for over 10 years and focus on increasing sporting provisions and engagement in sport within Zambian communities, in partnership with local stakeholders.

Through Volunteer Zambia and Saints Volunteer Livingstone, student and staff volunteers support the work of leading Zambian sports NGO Sport in Action, helping to deliver sport-specific coaching sessions, upskill and educate coaches, and empowering local coaches and volunteers to deliver quality and sustainable sport at sites across Africa.

The University supports students through their coaching qualifications, and by providing opportunities to develop their coaching and teaching skills in the UK, ahead of spending 6-8 weeks in Africa collaborating with in-country Zambian colleagues to deliver embedded and sustainable sporting opportunities for young people across Zambia.

Since 2009, 29 staff and 100 students have participated across both programmes.

In Summer 2023, 8 student volunteers and 3 staff members travelled to Zambia to support the projects. Students actively supported 10 community sport hub-sites across Lusaka and across multiple community sites in Livingstone. Saints Volunteer Livingstone students and staff supported Sport in Action to identify sites that can become hub-sites, making sport more accessible to a wide range of communities and contributing to Sport in Action's ever growing list of Hub-Sites which currently sits at around 45 sites across the country.

As part of their role, Volunteer Zambia students worked with hub-site coaches and coordinators in Lusaka to run tournaments at each hub-site to celebrate "The Day of the African Child". This saw over 1500 children taking part in tournaments across the capital. The event was planned within 3 days and was a huge success! At the end of each tournament, Sport in Action volunteers led a life skills session to highlight the importance of internet safety. Our student volunteers sat in on these sessions and actively engaged with participants.

During their time in Lusaka, students also supported 45 Zambian volunteer coaches through various coaching workshops, with all 45 volunteers achieving governing body accredited coaching qualifications.

At an institutional level, the 7 UK universities of the Wallace Group have supported the implementation of a new

project in partnership with Duke of Edinburgh Zambia, which involved 45 Sport in Action volunteers taking part in a project under the theme "World Ready".

East Fife Sports Council Sports Awards

Students Kaylie Keegan and Chloe Davidson were awarded Services to Schools award at the most recent East Fife Sports Council Sports Awards. The Award, given in recognition to marked dedication and commitment to support or volunteering in school sport by an individual, club, organisation, or group have worked hard to establish a lacrosse cluster club which supports 12 schools from P5-S3 and Madras College, delivering regular access to lacrosse sessions to over 50 young people. They have provided high-quality taster sessions within the cluster to create a buzz around the cluster for lacrosse and they have worked tirelessly to recruit volunteers to ensure the continued delivery and sustainability of these sessions. Kaylie and Chloe have also worked extremely hard to establish the first community provision for young people at Primary school age with a learning disability, supporting over 14 young people in becoming more active more often.'

Kaylie and Chloe were nominated by Madras' Active Schools representative.

Growing up, my aunt Liz, who had Down's Syndrome did not have the luxury of a strong community of others who were like her. After seeing the importance of recreational activity for her development, I discovered a similar need for it within the Fife community. Working with Active Schools in the cluster for children with learning disabilities means I may have an impact on children like my aunt and further hope to provide a space that my aunt did not have access to.

Kaylie

It's been incredibly meaningful working with our Madras Disabilities Cluster this past year. It has been so wonderful to watch the progress that each kid makes every week and how much joy it brings both them and their families.

Chloe



Lacrosse Club Members at the East Fife Sports Awards

Culture

The Laidlaw Music Centre, Museums and Libraries and the Byre Theatre provide diverse and culturally vibrant programmes for everyone in St Andrews and beyond

The Laidlaw Music Centre is a busy music hub in the town. Each week during the semester they host student-led ensembles, one-to-one lessons, ensembles for the community and young people, academic teaching and a busy concert programme. There are also a number of projects taking place around the community as part of the outreach programme St Andrews Musical Participation (StAMP).

Highlights of the year include:

StAFCO (St Andrews and Fife Community Orchestra)

This ensemble welcomes players of all ages, levels of ability and experience in a supportive, friendly atmosphere with no auditions! The orchestra is flourishing, currently with 70+ members, and there is always room for more. Collaborations with soloists from the SCO are a highlight each year and performances resound with joyous energy.

The Laidlaw Music Centre team is fortunate to work in partnership with other educational institutions such as Fife College. Colleagues are involved in the live streaming of the weekly Wednesday lunchtime concerts from the McPherson Recital Room and recording performances in Holy Trinity church, which accounts for around 25-30 events each year. They also provide specialised technical support for students on specific projects and those wanting to develop skills. It is an advantageous partnership between the two institutions that provides excellent work experience in Audio-Video Recording and Streaming to the Fife College students who accompany their tutors in events.

StAMP Discovering Brass



Making noise with the Discovering Brass project

The award-winning outreach project StAMP Brass is in its fourth year; aiming to reinvigorate the culture and heritage of playing in a brass band through a dedicated education and community project. This academic year the team have taught 270 P6 pupils from eight primary schools across Fife how to play a 'beginner' natural trumpet. They performed *The Story of Discovering Brass* by John Wallace in the Rothe Halls last month and all pupils are invited to join one of our six partner brass bands to continue their musical journeys.

Previous Discovering Brass participants who all now play in brass bands came together last August to play in the opening weekend of the Edinburgh International Festival. This record-breaking event had 362 musicians on stage at Princes St Gardens. They were thrilled to be part, playing alongside some excellent music organisations and ensembles from across Scotland.



Libraries & Museums

What do peatlands, whale song, a 5000-year-old man from the underworld and photographs of an abandoned island all have in common?

They have all been explored through the **Wardlaw Museum's** temporary exhibitions programme.

The shows, which change two to three times a year, are the lifeblood of the University's flagship museum, offering a wide variety of cutting-edge ideas, never-before-seen artefacts and questions to make you think. They mean that every visit to the museum brings something different.

The Libraries and Museums team have always been involved in University life, however last few years have been particularly important in expanding their work to establish stronger relationships with the local community – from providing food essentials at our family workshops to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, to creating connections between communities across Fife.

Outreach for the 'What Makes Us Human?' exhibition in the summer of 2023 saw the team take University research to over 950 people across different community centres and fayres in Fife, asking the question 'Are Humans Unique?'.

The Common Ground project in collaboration with Glenwood High School (Glenrothes) and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Fife saw around 30 migrants and eight pupils collaborate to create an exhibition all about how art can bring different cultures together, giving participants the 'confidence to speak to different people' and use art as a 'way of expressing ourselves (sometimes in a way words can't)'.

Common Ground also aims to develop workplace skills in school pupils as they develop abilities in project management, budget handling, marketing, communications and more by creating and advertising an exhibition of work from the project.

This year around 30 migrants and eight Glenwood pupils have taken part in the project. Participants say it has given them, "confidence to speak to different people" and "a new spark for wanting to create art". They've enjoyed "laughing and smiling together, even if language is a bit of a barrier" and "meeting different people from various backgrounds and getting to know each other better during every meeting." The medium of art has been a useful "way of expressing ourselves (sometimes in a way words can't)".

The resulting exhibition, Creative Cultures, will remain on display in the Wardlaw Museum's Learning Loft throughout summer 2024, showcasing what we can do together when we search for common ground.

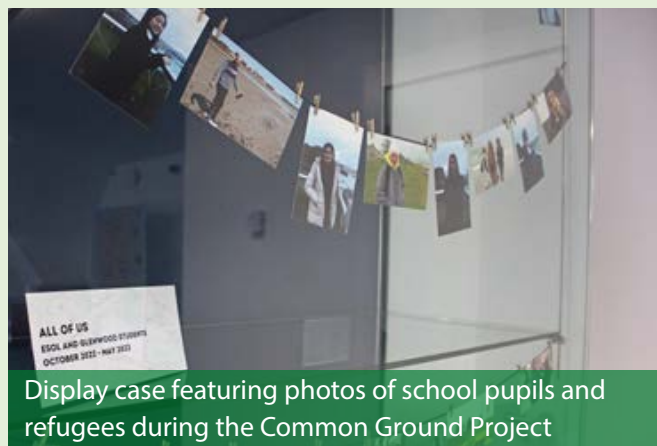
Beyond this, they have been researching how museums can have a positive impact on our environment by encouraging visitors and local communities to make sustainable decisions. The 2021 exhibition Dive In! was only the first step – the work since then has been focusing on different methodologies to influence behaviour change, and they are currently evaluating their findings.

The programme continues throughout the summer and autumn of 2024 with Alien Worlds, which takes visitors on a trip beyond our solar system to explore far off planets via science and science-fiction.

Entry to the Wardlaw Museum and to all exhibitions is free. The team are ready and waiting to give all visitors an award-winning welcome.



Peatlands Exhibition 'What can I do' section



Display case featuring photos of school pupils and refugees during the Common Ground Project



The Byre's most recent pantomime, Cinderella, delighted audiences over the 2023 festive season

The Byre Theatre

Pay What You Can (PWYC) pricing model

This is a core aspect of our commitment to access which doesn't rely on outdated pricing approaches which include concessions.

The scale of the Byre's commitment to accessible pricing is demonstrated by the statistics. PWYC tickets accounted for 31% of all tickets sold in 2022/23 and 26% of all gross income.

The Byre is an early adopter in PWYC amongst Scotland's theatres and we are actively encouraging community, student and professional producers to use the model to reduce finance as a barrier to attendance in the midst of the financial crisis.

Sustainability – in the last year the Byre has:

Surveyed customers as part of the national Act Green initiative to assess their attitudes to environmental sustainability in the arts. Last year's survey showed that 85% of Byre audiences are worried about the impact of climate change.

Even though audiences in St Andrews, including students, report that posters and leaflets are a key source of information on events, The Byre are actively changing the use of print to reduce environmental impact.

Responses to the Act Green survey from Byre attenders:

- I think it's so important to come up with an integral policy, that considers all of the aspects of sustainability, and communicating that. There is a great opportunity to develop creative works that communicate the conflicts involved in the process of developing a policy, and the challenges of fulfilling it also.
- We all need to work together.
- Government and industry need to drive this but we can all do our bit to help.

Move to digital ticketing

Saving around 100,000 paper tickets every year. (Although a small number of our customers do not have smart phones or access to the internet, we issue paper tickets for them.)

Cutting brochure pages

Reducing the amount of paper we use in our quarterly brochure saves a whopping 432000 printed pages per brochure (the total length of pages saved, laid end-to-end, is 56 miles which could take you from the Byre Theatre to Perth Theatre and back.)

Opportunities for young people:

Theatre for Wellbeing

Project for teenagers, a weekly drama session at Madras College, provided by the Byre. Sessions aim to support wellbeing, rather than prescribed therapy and are thought of as preventative for young people who may be struggling with confidence, anxiety etc. The participants for these sessions come through all the secondary schools in the area and this is managed by theatre professionals. It is a referral process which includes school and parental involvement.

Annual Pantomime Youth Cast

The Byre produces its renowned annual pantomime each year with Bard In The Botanics. The local youth cast rehearse and perform alongside the cast, working with the professional director and choreographer whilst receiving a quality experience in professional production. For Cinderella in 2023, 24 local young people had a brilliant experience.

- As the weather turns wet and dreich, the theatres blaze all the brighter. At the Byre in St Andrews, Gordon Barr has had the brilliant wheeze of setting the Cinderella story in a run-down theatre, where Tinashe Warikandwa's gorgeous Cinderella struggles to keep her late parents' showbiz dream alive, while wicked stepmother Cruella plots to flog the place off for redevelopment as student accommodation.... **it boasts some terrific and well choreographed work from the young cast.**

Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman

Capital projects

Forging local links to create sustainable, affordable housing



The Grange housing development has provided affordable housing for postgraduate students and academics

'The Grange', a pioneering project between the University of St Andrews and Kingdom Initiatives opened its doors to its first residents in August 2023. Once complete, it will provide a mix of 61 houses and flats for affordable rent, with 14 of the properties being identified as houses of multiple occupation.

The development highlights a joint commitment by the University and Kingdom Housing Association to enhance the lives of postgraduate students, academics and other staff through thoughtfully designed, affordable housing.

All homes have been built to Building Control's Silver Active standard of sustainability, are highly energy efficient, and fitted with solar panels and hydrogen ready boilers.

This forward-thinking approach supports the transition to more sustainable energy sources, contributing to the reduction of the project's carbon footprint.

It is hoped the creation of additional housing will ease pressure on the town.

New College

Major plans by the University of St Andrews to redevelop one of the most distinctive and historically significant buildings in central St Andrews are now underway.

Demolition works to remove dilapidated 1960s and 1970s buildings to the rear of the former Madras College building in South Street site were undertaken in 2022 and early 2023.

In December 2022 award-winning architectural firm WilkinsonEyre was appointed to produce designs for the flagship project.

'New College' will be home to the new St Andrews Business School, comprising the Schools of Economics and Finance, and Management, as well as accommodating the University's world-renowned School of International Relations.

The development will in large part be resourced via a fundraising campaign amongst St Andrews alumni and supporters.

The former secondary school building and grounds were acquired from Fife Council in 2021 and Madras College relocated to a new purpose-built building at Bell Brae, on the outskirts of St Andrews, in August of that year.



The historic quad will be redeveloped as part of 'New College'

Eden Campus

Eden Campus lies at the heart of the University's ambitious strategy to become carbon-neutral by 2035.

This hub of innovation includes a Centre for Entrepreneurship providing opportunities to support and develop entrepreneurship within the local community.

In the last 12 months, the Eden Campus site has developed further, most recently with the opening of the new Rapid Prototyping Centre (RPC).

The aim of the RPC is to foster academic and industrial collaborations in and around Fife and beyond and to provide a solid place to build a highly skilled workforce enabling individuals to develop the latest technical skills in sustainable design and manufacturing.

The Centre is available by appointment to all staff and students within the University, entrepreneurs, and local businesses looking to turn their ideas into prototypes, products, or services.

Tindal's cafe is also open to the community during working hours.

The development of Eden Campus has also resulted in indirect benefits to the community including the regeneration of Guardbridge village with over 300 new homes being built, improved public transport links, the doubling of the local primary school roll, the creation

of a community garden, planting of 9000 trees and salt marsh restoration works – all helping to create a more sustainable and accessible community in an area that had been adversely affected by the closure of the paper mill in 2008.

Work is also underway by Scottish Power Energy Networks to upgrade and enhance the power supply in North East Fife which will create a new primary sub-station located at Eden Campus, supporting the wider area. Benefits will bring energy security and 30% increase in power capacity to the area removing constraints on future projects relying on sustainable sources of energy.



Walter Bower House, part of the University's Eden Campus, is part of the wider regeneration of the Guardbridge area



Views across the town from the Grange development



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Our thanks

For more than 600 years, the University, the town of St Andrews and the wider community of Fife have shared in each other's challenges and successes. As an institution, we are delighted to be able to support the pursuits highlighted within this publication. These only serve as a snapshot of the diverse activities undertaken by our students and staff.

If you would like to find out more about anything contained within this publication please email community@st-andrews.ac.uk

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