

## Small Grants Fund Case Study



### **Anstruther Improvements Association**

#### **What activity did you run?**

We spent the grant money on a session of invertebrate monitoring training at the Dreel Burn. [Forth Rivers Trust](#) delivered the session with support from the University of St Andrews. We used resources from [The Riverfly Partnership](#).

We provided a craft activity for young children, a display of the Dreel Burn Project so far and refreshments for all. We also shared a display of our recent Dreel Burn Fish in the Classroom project with Anstruther Primary School students.

#### **Who were your main audience?**

The audience was mostly residents of all ages living in Anstruther and the East Neuk. There were two visitors from Angus. Our activity engaged 47 people.

#### **What did you learn?**

We learned how monitoring the invertebrates living in our burn can indicate the health of the burn and the level of biodiversity within the burn's habitat. We learned which invertebrates act as indicators of good health. We were taught how to take kick samples from the burn and how to identify the invertebrates in the sample.

We were taught how to record the data and feed this into the Riverfly Project. These skills will build citizen science capacity for our Dreel Burn Project, enabling us to continue to monitor invertebrates in the burn over the long-term so we can evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

#### **Has delivering your project increased capacity to tackle the climate emergency in your community?**

The grant has helped us to facilitate climate change conversations and give local people opportunities to collaborate and take action. As a community we feel empowered to take our own climate action to monitor, protect and care for our burn.

The session provided us with a route that will allow us to explore what impact climate change has had in our locality. It equipped us with the skills which will build capacity to undertake biodiversity monitoring ourselves. By developing the riverfly citizen science monitoring programme we will be able to see whether interventions that are part of the Dreel Burn Project have any impact.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with participants commenting on how much they had learned from the day and confirming that they would be interested in participating in ongoing monitoring activity – this achieved the outcomes we were hoping for. Thank you so much for supporting our project, we are very grateful.

## What feedback did attendees give?

“What a great day, I didn’t really know what to expect, but I found I got totally sucked into the identification process. I think I could become a bit obsessed!”

“I didn’t realise that we can directly see how polluted our river is just by counting the bugs in it.”

“I thought it was a really fun way to spend the afternoon, it was quite therapeutic. I’m definitely up for doing this again”

“It felt like a success and there was a lot of interaction with the water table and the microscopes for looking at the invertebrates. Looking forward to the next one.”

## Find out more

[www.anstrutherimprovements.org](http://www.anstrutherimprovements.org)

