

Small Grant Fund Case Study

West Fife Woodlands Group

What activity did you run?

We used the grant to prepare ground and plant trees and shrubs within Valleyfield Woodlands. We planted 14 cherry trees, 4,000 flowering bulbs and 70 bushes within the walled garden. We planted 20 fruit trees in the Community Orchard. We also planted 6 Douglas fir trees.

The Valleyfield Woodlands walled garden traces its history back to the 18th Century. It was originally established to supply fresh produce, such as fruits and vegetables, to the owners of Valleyfield House and members of the community. Planting trees and shrubs there has two main benefits.

- To promote biodiversity serving as habitats for many species.
- To act as early pollinators for plants and for the promotion of nectar for helping enhance the bee and avian populations in the vicinity of Valleyfield Estate woods enhancing the ecological diversity of Valleyfield woods.

To continue the communication of the work we have undertaken we will install an infographics board close to the walled garden. This will allow visitors to the area to read about the history of the woods and the ecological diversity of the area. It will also explain the work that West Fife Woodlands Group have undertaken to promote biodiversity and help offset the impacts of climate change on the woods and area.

Who were your main audience?

West Fife Woodlands hold an annual Snowdrop Festival in February and early March. This year, the guides have included information about the work we have done with the grant we received from Climate Action Fife to the visitors and public who attended this year's Snowdrop Walks.

We have estimated that this year we have had over two thousand visitors to the snowdrop walks. However, not all have been with our guides where they would have received talks about the work we have done with the grant money. Once our information board is in place all visitors to the area will have access to the information.

What did you learn?

Through Climate Action Fife, we learned about the many different facets woodlands and natural environments play a significant role in mitigating climate change by offering numerous benefits. This includes storing carbon dioxide, soil protection and supporting wildlife.

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Overall, the preservation and responsible management of woodlands are essential for addressing climate change and maintaining a healthy planet.

Has your project increased your community's capacity to tackle the climate emergency?

Visitors to the Valleyfield Woodlands during the Snowdrop Festival have listened to the information we have included in the talks on climate action and biodiversity.

Some have been very interested in the work we undertake and have offered to join us as volunteers to help continue the good work. In essence, the work we have undertaken and plan to continue to do threads together historical awareness, environmental sensibility, community engagement and economic development. This benefits the people of Fife and contributes to reduction in impact of climate change.

Community Climate Grants



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