

Common Good Fund: Application Form for 2020/21*

*Please note this is a fund of last resort – you will need to demonstrate to the Common Good Fund Committee that you have tried to secure funding from other sources.

Applicant Group/Organisation:	Riddell Fiddles
Name of your project:	Burnfoot Buskers
The name of the Common Good Fund that you are applying to:	Hawick Common Good Fund

What does your organisation do and who does it support? If appropriate. (max. 100 words)

Burnfoot Buskers was set up in November 2019 as an umbrella youth organisation of Riddell Fiddles (a fully constituted Selkirk based community music group set up in 2003). The Burnfoot project follows an ongoing successful youth group set up in 2015 on Bannerfield Housing Estate, Selkirk. The aim is to offer free music tuition in fiddle and guitar to children at an after-school club based in Burnfoot. Free instruments (well set up and good instruments) are also handed out with insurance and maintenance covered by Riddell Fiddles.

Currently there are 15 children attending and participating with performances lined up in March 2023. In addition to free tuition the children are loaned instruments (also free of charge) to allow them to practice at home. The group supports community events such as a recent Burnfoot Hub Burns Supper and will play at the Hawick Reivers Festival in March 2023. Burnfoot Buskers will also feature in the 20th anniversary Riddell Fiddles concert on 13th May 2023. One child from the group has progressed to the extent that she will sit a traditional music grade with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in May 2023. Riddell Fiddles were recognized for their achievements and their work with Burnfoot Buskers, and their sister organisation based in Bannerfield in Selkirk at the Scottish Trad Music awards 2021 (Riddell Fiddles' Two Towns Housing Estate Youth Musical Outreach Programme) and won the Scottish Community Project of the Year 2021 at the televised 'Hands Up for Trad' Awards. Riddell Fiddles tries very hard to make practice materials accessible to learners with homework pages online/recordings sent home and email and text prompts.

Summarise what you want to use this funding for (max. 100 words)

The classes are presently based in Burnfoot Hub, and the grant applied for is to cover the costs of running such a group Room hire. Tutor costs. Travel costs. Instrument cost etc. With all funding coming from the parent group 'Riddell Fiddles' who do perform and busk to raise funds the group is quite stretched with two fully flourishing youth groups in two different towns as well as the main group and a neurodiverse band. Paying for room hire at the hub (£50 for two hours) has become a real problem and is not sustainable in the long term. During Covid grants allowed the group to continue within the guidelines in place at the time.

Tell us how your activity/project will make a difference to your organisation and how it will benefit the residents of the former Burgh (max. 200 words)

Weekly music classes in fiddle and guitar will be offered for approx. 30 weeks each year and are open to any primary age children in the area who wishes to attend.

Two rooms are required as two different types of instrumental tuition is on offer.

This project is providing a unique and special opportunity for the children of Burnfoot to learn and engage with experienced tutors of Scottish Traditional Music - tuition which would not be available to many in the normal course of events due to financial limitations on families. The opportunities to perform allows young people to be part of a group bearing the name of their community. The resultant benefits in terms of self-esteem, ownership, and resilience (it is hard to stand up in front of your community and perform) are immeasurable.

Music learning allows a heightened sense of health and wellbeing and allows focus and concentration which feeds back into formal curricular learning.

Music tuition is not as available as it has been previously although Youth Music Initiative (YMI) do some blocks of whole class musical education across the Scottish Borders.

Tell us how your project will be sustainable in the future (max. 100 words)

Where possible the children will perform (Morrison's are very supportive of busking) and seek donations to cover costs although ongoing grant support from various sources in the future may need to be sought. At present seeking donations from businesses is deemed inappropriate due to the financial climate. However, this avenue will be explored later in the year. The room rental costs are extremely high for a voluntary group, and it may be that alternative accommodation may need to be sought long term. It is our wish to be within the Burnfoot Community Hub at the centre of the community and the group are hoping to raise funds to cover ongoing costs. So far, the group have managed and are extremely resilient and creative.

Expenditure: Please tell us how much money you need for the entire activity/project (you may be asked to provide up to 3 quotes to support your application)

Hire of rooms at Burnfoot Hub at £50 per week (for 2 rooms) x30 weeks per year	£1500
Tutor travel costs (0.45 x 24) x 30 . One vehicle	£324
Instrumental Maintenance & costs	£500
Total	£2324

Have you received funding in the last 5 years from Scottish Borders Council or any other external funders? If so, please detail the fund name, the amount and the purpose of the grant.

Fund	Amount	Purpose
Covid Recovery grant (Teviotdale) Nov 2021 to May 2022	£6120	This grant allowed an open-door policy to all pupils at a time of uncertainty within the covid pandemic. Attendance was high although there were some absences as families isolated and dealt with the continuing situation. Overall, a band of young enthusiasts formed, and these young people have carried on in the ensuing sessions .

Tell us about your own fundraising or how you have secured other funding for this project.		
	Amount	Purpose
Riddell Fiddles Fundraising (Performances/Busking/Sponsorship)	£2000	Tuition Costs (2 tutors) Admin/Communication Instruments

Individual/Group/Organisation details:	
Contact Name:	Sheila Sapkota
Position in Group/Org: (if appropriate)	Leader
Home Address:	
Post Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Date:	28.02.23
Signature:	

Equalities

Do you have an Equal Opportunities Policy or Equality Statement? Yes

Explain how your project complies with the obligations contained in the Equality Act 2010

Draft Equality statement attached to be confirmed when SCIO status granted. This covers all aspects of the obligations contained in the Equalities Act 2010

Riddell Fiddles tolerates no form of discrimination, and all are welcome to attend the group – within the age parameters entailed by the group. All attempts are made to overcome barriers (financial/learning/language based) and to engage with learners and make the learning and playing of music an enjoyable, inclusive process.

Public Protection

Does your idea/project involve work with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults? Yes No

If yes, what public protection policies do you have in place and how often are these reviewed? Please provide a copy of these or give full details below.

The group is run by a fully disclosed GTC registered teacher within Scottish Borders with fully disclosed staff who are members of the Musician's Union and have comprehensive liability insurance. Comprehensive data protection and consent forms are in place with years of local experience and integrity behind the management of the group.

Permissions

Does your project involve work to a building or land? No

If yes do you have the following? (please tick relevant)

- Written permission of owner - Under discussion with various owners
- Planning permission - Appropriate permission will be sought/obtained before any works are undertaken

Common Good Funds

Common Good Funds in Scotland originated in the 15th century and are the assets and income of some of the current/former Burghs. They can represent a substantial portfolio of land, property, some moveable items, and investments and by law continue to exist for the benefit of the inhabitants of the former Burghs to which they relate. Scottish Borders Council is the owner of these Funds and each Fund has a sub-committee comprising the relevant local Councillors who make the decisions on the management of the Fund's assets and approval of any requests for funding (up to a limit of £20,000 above which full Council approval is required).

If you are successful in being awarded Common Good Funds, you will be asked to complete a monitoring & evaluation form when your project is complete or within 1 year of receiving funding. Future applications will not be considered until this has been received and the Common Good Fund Sub-Committee are satisfied with the evaluation you have provided.

This completed form and supporting documents should be submitted to Democratic Services, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA. Email: Judith.Turnbull@scotborders.gov.uk Telephone: 01835 826556