

This document sets a summary of our project. It will cover what we wanted to happen; what actually happened covering project management, differences that happened as a result of the project and project finances; ending with a short review and lessons learned.



Bute Heritage Horticulture Training Centre & Seed Bank

Evaluation Report

Reeni Kennedy Boyle

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
What we wanted to happen?	2
Project Aims	2
What we planned to do	3
Outcomes we expected to achieve.....	4
What actually happened.....	4
Project Management	4
Planning.....	4
People – Staff, volunteers, contractors and community	4
The difference made by our project:	7
Difference made to heritage.....	7
Difference made for people.....	11
Difference made for Bute Community.....	13
Finances – Project costs, changes and match funding	14
Review.....	19
What worked well and why?	19
What didn't work and why?.....	19
How much of the difference would have happened anyway?	19
Summary of lessons learnt.....	20

Executive Summary

Fyne Futures Bute Produce identified that a wonderful part of our history and cultural heritage was being lost both in terms of knowledge and skills – heritage horticulture. This paper sets out how we sought to begin to solve that problem with an innovative and exciting project.

The project was designed to be accessible to everyone, engaging all sections of our community with focussed outcomes on new entrants to heritage horticulture as a potential career path. It is important that the project has a strong legacy in the provision of a training centre that will attract new entrants to the horticultural profession and leisure learning for amateur gardeners.

We assembled a great team, internally and externally, to ensure successful delivery of the project. We sought to take advantage of the learning opportunities for our organisation and community, and to ensure the right level of knowledge and skills supported and enabled the project.

All the project outputs and outcomes were delivered under budget, although there was some reporting issues, and with no changes that substantively altered the project direction. Heritage Lottery Funding was vital in ensuring the essence of the project was delivered whilst match funding supported core costs and new entrants.

The project was delivered within the timescale set out, with key milestones and community engagement events working very much to plan. The differences that have been achieved can be celebrated and replicated. It is hoped that recipients of this report will enjoy reading about our project as much as we enjoyed working through it.

What we wanted to happen?

Project Aims

Bute Heritage Horticultural Training Centre and Seed Bank aimed to focus on the heritage skills of horticulture. Isle of Bute has a long history of local food production which dates back to early 18th century and has seen significant transformation and challenge over the centuries to 2013. The Bute endemic varieties not only include vegetables (e.g. Beauty of Bute potatoes) but also ornamental plants (e.g. local fuchsia).

The project focussed on two aspects of horticultural heritage: the history of Bute potatoes, leading to conservation, maintenance and gain information to facilitate use of heritage vegetables and fruit now and in the future by growers; and knowledge and skills needed to successfully gather, store and cultivate heritage varieties, organically grown fruit and vegetables. The project sought to research primary sources pertaining to Bute potatoes and capture oral history from local gardeners and farmers with relevant knowledge. Interpret and explain the cultural value of this crop to Bute's heritage. Interpret and explain the skill set required to develop and cultivate these crops.

The project wanted to establish Bute Potato Library, documenting, storing, preserving and growing varieties with strong connections to Bute. The project sought to collaborate with community gardens across Argyll, particularly Campbeltown and Islay.

What we planned to do

Bute has made a significant contribution to horticultural development since 18th century. The Bute endemic varieties not only include ornamental plants (e.g. Bute Gloxinia) but also important vegetable crops (e.g. Bute Potatoes varieties).

Bute Produce was initially set up to deliver healthy eating and environmental outcomes, the project recognised that this need had, in part, arisen because of significant decline in plants for food horticulture in both our agriculture and domestic sectors on the island. As we have developed and grown our knowledge of local agriculture, we have identified the great danger of losing Bute Potatoes from Bute with only two local growers attempting to maintain Bute Blues. The other two varieties known are Marquis of Bute potato and Beauty of Bute.

There is little understanding of other potential varieties however it is known that local farmers did vie with each to send the earliest crop to Glasgow using local resources to promote healthy crops such as seaweed. Some oral history indicates that farmers developed their own varieties such as Drumreoch Blues.

The knowledge that Bute was one of the earliest places in the West of Scotland for growing potatoes is all but lost. The important role that potato crop played in the development of agriculture and the land based economy of the island is little understood.

There are important primary sources available on the island, which if interpreted, explained and presented would add great value to our knowledge of this heritage and what it meant to the community.

Mount Stuart Archive

- Letter from John Hope of Edinburgh to 3rd Earle of Bute includes remarks by James Robertson – 1768
- Notes of 3rd Earl concerning his interests in botany and agriculture including directions for Collecting, Preserving and sending over, Plants, Fruits and Seeds
- An account by Mr Graham at Kilsyth in planting potatoes 1770
- 3rd Earl's journal (1734-1744) giving an account of plantings and other gardening work done at Mount Stuart from the time of 2nd Earl
- Notebook containing lists of 'General Division of Plants' 1778

Bute Agricultural Society Archive - This was donated to Bute's Natural History Museum in March 1995 and contains minute books of the Society from 1806-2005

Oral history from farmers with long lineage of farming on Bute - many elderly.

The skills associated with growing diverse food crops are being lost as our farming community have responded to the demands of industrial dairy and meat farming. Records referring to Bute Farmers Society dating back to 1806 demonstrate a broad range of food produce on the island. Circa 1837, the island had a population of just over 6000 and was not only self-sufficient but also able to export crops to the mainland.

SASA has highlighted that “the survival of landraces is dependent on a continual cycle of regeneration and sowing; if seed harvest fails, the landrace will be lost unless a sample of the population has been conserved...” It is therefore important to ensure that people have the right skill set to conserve these potato varieties and that that knowledge is able of being transferred.

Outcomes we expected to achieve

We expected to gain understanding about the part Bute Potatoes played in our agricultural heritage and their cultural value to Bute. We would uncover, interpret and present information on their characteristics, methods of use, origins and what this could tell us about our cultural heritage.

We wanted our agricultural heritage to be better explained and understood by our community and visitors to the island.

We expected to have a strong legacy of knowledge and skills developed to grow Bute heritage varieties of potato. A key outcome was to develop Bute Produce as a training centre for heritage horticulture skills that would sustain the garden and benefit future horticulturists.

Finally we hoped a wide range of people would engage with horticulture heritage skills and heritage potatoes in practical and fun ways.

What actually happened

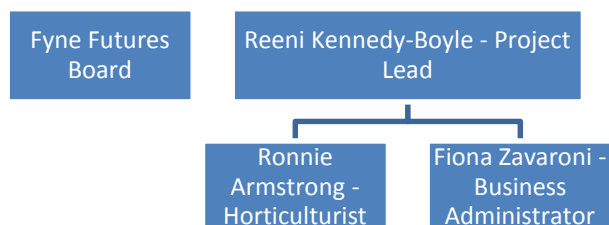
Project Management

Planning

An initial project plan¹ was submitted with the application which outlined the high level activities. On receipt of award letter a project inception meeting was held which revisited this plan and broke it down further to monthly activities, with roles and responsibilities assigned and delight that we had received the full grant amount requested. There were some adjustments as the project progressed however all the outlined activities were delivered and all project outputs completed².

People – Staff, volunteers, contractors and community

The initial project team (fig 1 below) were supported by Fyne Futures volunteer board.



¹ Appendix 1 – project plan

² Appendix 2 – project activities timeline

Fyne Futures had transferred Rab Duff to Bute Produce from recycling centre, as Horticultural Assistant, to add resource to garden. Caroline Speirs, Sales & Marketing Manager was also assigned to the project to support the PR and events planning. We felt adding this resource to the project was important to achieve the best outcomes possible.

Recruitment was undertaken for Horticultural Trainees with eligibility criteria that they must be unemployed.

Two trainees formed part of the grant award from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Our match funder Fyne Homes People in Communities (PIC) project was being re-profiled and we were given permission to recruit just one trainee using this fund at the time. We sought additional funding for a fourth trainee and were supported by Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) with additional eligibility criteria of supporting a young unemployed person with long term health issue, learning needs or disability.

On 10th March 2014, Kieran Paterson joined us, funded by SCVO, on 16 hours per week @ 78 weeks contract. The team expanded further on 14th April 2014 with Gerry Docherty and Richard Walker, funded by HLF, on 30 hours per week @ 52 weeks contracts; and Duncan Brown, funded by PIC, on 30 hours per week @ 26 weeks. A great start to achieving our project outcomes with 4 unemployed people appointed to work-based training in heritage horticulture.

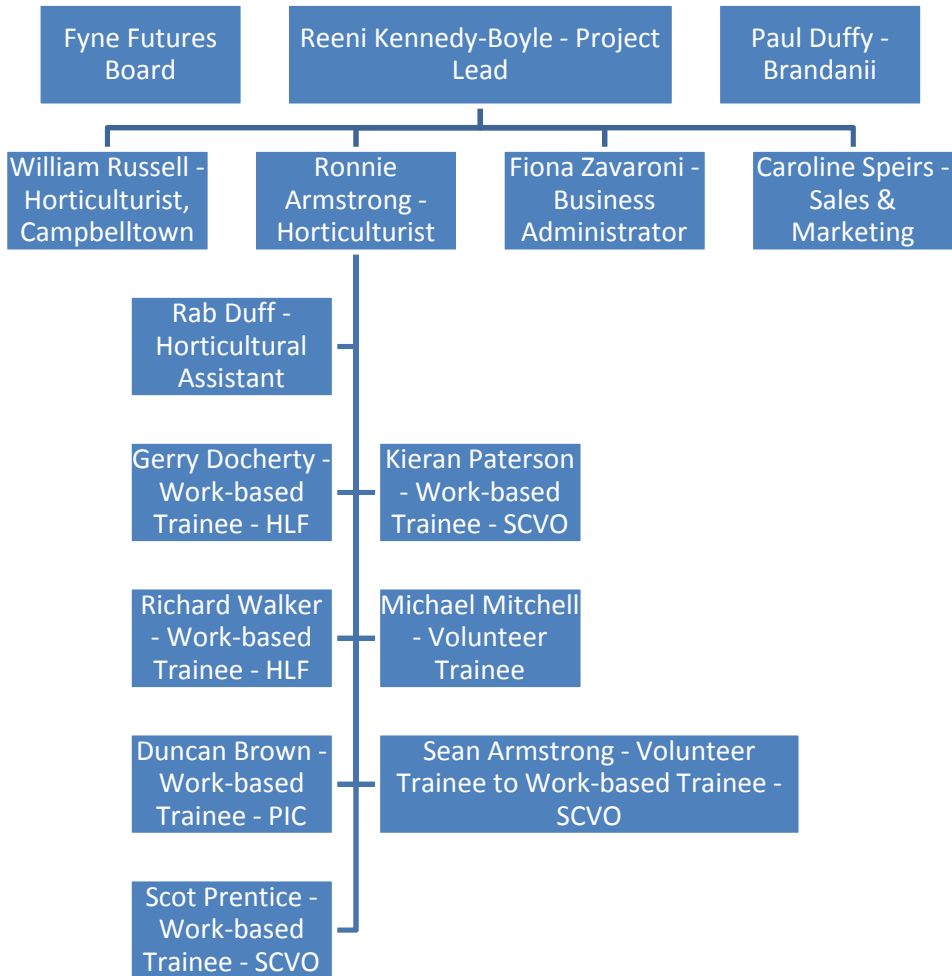
The project was presented at Bute 16+ Employment and Training Group which resulted in two Argyll Training Ltd volunteer trainees being assigned to Bute Produce. Sean Armstrong came on board at 24th March 2014 and Michael Mitchell joined the team on 29th March 2014.

When Sean and Michael's volunteer employability training ended with Argyll Training, Sean stayed on at Bute Produce as a volunteer. Michael gained a work-based training opportunity at our Recycling Centre, with commitment to allow day-release to attend training opportunities at Bute Produce.

Unfortunately, Fyne Homes People In Communities re-profiling resulted in a communication that we would not be able to recruit another work-based trainee Bute Produce. However, SCVO were delighted with support given to Kieran and offered additional funding when their new programme started.

A telephone conference was held with leaders at Campbelltown and Islay Community Gardens to share the good news however only Campbelltown was able to progress with the project plan.

Following procurement process Brandanii Archaeology & Heritage were appointed to take forward the history element of the project. Paul Duffy was immediately enthused by the project and became a firm part of the team (fig 2 below).



During the year of the project, we were joined by irregular volunteers who added their labour to particular tasks or got involved in specific events however personal circumstances prevented them from staying with the project longer.

Over the course of the project year people engaged with the project in a variety of ways:

- Providing advice and support by engaging with History project
- Online and traditional media – via website, Facebook, twitter, and YouTube; Buteman newspaper and Radio Bute
- On site at Bute Produce – ad hoc visits, planned activities and events
- At exhibitions and events – Rothesay Library, Colintraive Village Hall, Rothesay Horticultural Society Show, and Bute Agricultural Show

Much of the active engagement occurred during the 2nd half of the project with the 1st half being all about research, learning and development and practical horticulture. The story of Bute Potatoes was presented in a number of ways from presentations during garden tours to printed media.

The demographics of those engaged in events were as broad as we hoped for:

- Ages from pre-school to pensioners
- Males and females

The project has directly engaged, through these activities, with over 1000 adults and c 400 pre-school and primary children. We were, particularly, delighted to work with Rothesay Joint Campus Homes Economic department who hosted the Potato Bread Making event – a first for them.



The difference made by our project:

Difference made to heritage

Heritage Knowledge

We expected to gain understanding about the part Bute Potatoes played in our agricultural heritage and their cultural value to Bute.

A number of sources were examined and Brandanii concluded that “a number of key and important themes emerged” and that due to a lack of modern research this project would add benefit to a review of current state of knowledge on the history of potato growing in Scotland³.

As a result of the project we have increased our understanding of how agriculture developed from 18th century with changes to planting methods and working with soil. We understand how growing potatoes transformed from a sustenance crop to a commercial crop and the impact of World Wars.

We discovered the role our Bute Heritage Potatoes were likely to be “Show” varieties, cultivated by local horticulturists to show their skills at breeding new varieties. They may have been part of the marketing of ‘Bute Potatoes’ brand when the Bute farmers were competing to get the first ‘earlys’ to market – our version of the Beaujolais Nouveau race.

³ Appendix 6 – Research Project Outputs and Recommendations

Harvesting of the potatoes provided a source of seasonal income for lower paid locals and visitors who came on 'tattie howking' holidays. Therefore Bute potatoes formed part of the 'doon the water' holiday tradition that developed into mass tourism post war.

As such potatoes were an important part of the economy of the island and a significant part of our cultural heritage as a holiday destination. There are perhaps lessons here for our modern tourism strategy.

Landraces

Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) supported the project with the provision of seed potatoes. We received 5 tubers each of 3 rare varieties: Pride of Bute; Marquis of Bute and Beauty of Bute. A fourth variety Bute Blues is so rare that SASA could not spare any seed. These varieties of potatoes have their genesis connected to Isle of Bute however they have not been grown out with SASA for many decades. This project has allowed us re-introduce Bute Potatoes as a heritage landrace. With advice and training, we established the best actions to ensure a successful crop. We have recorded the methodology used to cultivate the seeds, and set out knowledge and skills matrix⁴. The crop achieved was:

- 153 Pride of Bute
- 60 Marquis of Bute
- 72 Beauty of Bute



The potatoes were presented at Rothesay Horticultural Society Show to much acclaim. The entire crop was put to storage for seed. These will used to create a larger crop this year. A sample of the

⁴ Appendix 4 – Growing Heritage Potatoes in Ridges

tubers will be sent back to SASA as part of landrace project. The aim would be to have the seed potatoes tested and registered so that Bute Heritage Seed Potatoes could be sold, bringing these varieties truly back to life. In the meantime, the remainder of the crop will be used to give people knowledge and skills in heritage horticulture.

Heritage Horticulture Skills

Two key areas of knowledge and skills which were learned during the course of the project were:

- Understanding and implementing heritage soil improvement techniques
- Understanding and implementing seed husbandry techniques

We explored growing techniques such as ridges, lazy beds, raised beds and hotbeds.

Soil Improvement

Modern horticulturists will test soil and take corrective action with soil improvers, fertilizers and aerating methods. This may involve chemicals, manufactured materials and high-tech machinery. Bute Produce has always grown using organic principles and long practised crop rotation within the site. However this project allowed us to explore and test traditional methods and materials⁵.

- Using different organic matter to improve the soil structure
 - Seaweed
 - Horse manure
 - Cow manure
- Using different horticulture skills to improve the soil structure
 - Manual double-digging
- Traditional ploughing
 - Correct setting of plough – positioning when drawn
 - Correct setting of plough – depth and space between furrows

There was a great deal of applied learning from historical sources, local farmer with special mention for Jock Sommerville (local ploughman). This learning will become part of the on-job practical training for future work-based trainees. The next steps are to develop an internal training manual to reflect this learning.



⁵ Please see photographic evidence

Seed Husbandry

Modern horticulturists will buy F1-hybrid seeds each year to achieve uniformity and increased plant vigour. However, seeds saved from F1-hybrid plants will not produce plants that are true to the



parent type in the following season. The project has helped Bute Produce explore what different skills would be needed to cultivate organic seeds.

This project supported learning of a very important heritage horticulture skill – seed husbandry. The two areas explored where:

- Seed saving

There was unexpected learning in the sessions with Ryton Organic Gardens. This was in the form of challenging us to consider the plan for planting, and helping us understand the difference between growing for seed and growing for produce. We have built that learning into this seasons plan.

There are different processes for different types of seed, some of which are a bit more complex than just gathering and storing. Learning included:

- Selecting the right plant from a crop to gather seed from
- Understanding when to gather the seed and the technique needed
- Choosing the right process to match the seed type – washing/drying
- Creating the right storage conditions
- Labelling and cataloguing

There is far more to learn in this area, and whilst the connection with Ryton Organic Gardens was not as strong as we would have hoped, we do have the training materials to help us continue to practise and learn this vital skill.

- Seed storage

An output of the project was to set up a Seed Library based on learning from Ryton Organic Gardens. There was also a need to understand specifically how we could apply the learning to Bute Heritage Potato Varieties. This was particularly important as we would be unable to replicate the perfect conditions that SASA have. We undertook research which identified 5 methods of storage. We implemented 4 methods during the trial and kept notes on results, report is appended to this document⁶. This will be useful information to feedback back to SASA and as part of the ongoing training at the site. If we are successful in achieving certification for Bute Heritage Seed potatoes it will form part of the story and information for other growers.

The trial has given us a useful insight that will help with decision making for next season's crop. We hope to have a large enough crop to conduct an experiment with the traditional clamp method, as this was the only method we did not implement.

⁶ Appendix 5 – Heritage Seed Potatoes Storage Trial

Difference made for people

Development of Management Skills

Fyne Futures personnel that were directly and indirectly involved with the project were able to develop **project management** skills. The key areas being:

- Inputs
- Output
- Outcomes
- Constraints
- Resources and Processes

Reviewing the project post award and at regular intervals during project implementation. We were challenged to manage issues that arose from internal and external factors.

We took the opportunity to further develop **events management** skills as a team. This was helpful in improving close team working between marketing, finance and horticulture personnel⁷.

Development of Horticulture Skills

Fyne Futures Bute Produce and Campbeltown Community Gardens now have RGE accredited Tutor/Assessors in Certificate in Practical Horticulture⁸. Aside from the personal achievement of Ronnie Armstrong and Willie Russell, this increases capability at both gardens to deliver accredited training. It improves capacity within Argyll & Bute of trained horticulturists who can support each other, trainees, and volunteers, to develop further. The gardens will benefit from the increased expertise.



Three horticulturists now have trained Seeds Guardian tutors. Ronnie Armstrong and Rab Duff from Bute Produce and Willie Russell from Campbeltown Community Gardens will cascade this knowledge

⁷ Appendix 7 – Heritage Potato Events Review

⁸ Appendix 3 – CPHIA Internship Overview

to future trainees and volunteers in future seasons. The skills associated with this benefit both gardens operationally.

Six trainees achieved RGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture, four passed with merit. These trainees are new entrants to horticulture, and the idea of heritage work⁹.

Rab Duff, will remain with Bute Produce as Horticulture Assistant and develop his knowledge and skills as a leader. Sean Armstrong and Kieran Paterson are continuing their work-placements at Bute Produce. They have been joined by Scott Prentice, SCVO supported trainee. They will continue to develop heritage horticulture skills with the new season planting and husbandry. Michael Mitchell is continuing his work-placement at Fyne Futures Recycling Centre however; he is keen to continue his learning in horticulture and is actively seeking opportunities to gain employment in this field. Richard Walker and Gerry Docherty have completed their training placements with Fyne Futures. We are delighted that both have secure employment on another heritage project in Rothesay. The restoration of Rothesay Mansion House, a 17th century property, is underway as part of a programme of works being undertaken by Mount Stuart. Gerry is continuing to volunteer at the garden on a regular basis with a special interest on this season potato crop. Richard, who has a young family, is keen to get involved in the community growing area.

Development of Transferrable Skills

- Presentation Skills
- Customer Service Skills
- Community Engagement Skills
- Organisation and Planning Skills
- Sourcing and Procurement Skills

The team all experienced and were given opportunity to develop these skills as the project progressed.

Confidence and knowledge were demonstrated each time a trainee gave a garden tour, sharing the Story of Bute Potatoes that included historical facts, the provenance of the heritage varieties and overview of the Heritage Lottery Fund project. Aside from the set events when up to 30 people were in attendance at a time, there were many ad hoc tours given as one or two members of the community dropped by to see how the project was progressing.

Off site exhibitions at local Health Centre, Agricultural Show, Horticultural Show, Mount Stuart Christmas Fayre, Colintrave Village Hall and school visits, whilst important to the promotion of the project ensured the team had opportunity to develop a range of people skills as well as organising and planning.

Once we understood what other resources were needed to support project delivery and ongoing legacy work, the team were involved in sourcing and procurement of seeds, plants, materials and tools. Thus developing understanding in getting most from budgets, quality and quantity decision making, and value of resources used to deliver the project.

⁹ Please see supporting evidence

These are skills which can be transferred to any future role.

People who engaged with the project

We hoped a wide range of people would engage with horticulture heritage skills and heritage potatoes in practical and fun ways. We believe that this have been achieved, certainly if the pictures and videos are to be believed, even when the weather was not the best. Check out our gallery at www.fynefutures.org.uk with links to videos too!



Difference made for Bute Community

Despite being an island Bute has an unusual dynamic. The vast majority of the population lives within Rothesay Town which has a very urban feel to it. Most townsfolk are not connected to the agricultural community, even when they are keen explorers of island landscape. This project has heightened the awareness of the island's role in the food chain past and present and raised some new possibilities for the future. The community is now aware there are options such as 'Grow Your Own' and buying local produce as an alternative to supermarket buying. We have re-engaged people with a heritage that had been a shared pride – Bute Potatoes and a desire to see a return of the crop to the island.

Events and activities have been open to all which has meant that people who had never met, came together and had shared experiences. Sharing memories and creating new ones.

With online activity, links have been made with other heritage projects across the UK. We have raised awareness of Bute and local produce by linking with other on island producers for #heritagehour, #scotlandhour and #scotlandfoodanddrink.

The legacy of the project is an accredited training site which will offer practical learning opportunities. These will range from supporting people to grow their own vegetables to supporting people who would like to explore horticulture as a career. We have made links with a proposed Argyll & Bute Council heritage project – Hermitage Park, Helensburgh, whose project team visited to find out what more about heritage horticulture training.

Argyll & Bute Council have also expressed an interest in working more collaboratively with us, with a specific enquiry about developing Arden Craig Gardens as an additional training facility. Arden Craig is an historical walled garden which is severely underutilised. This is an exciting opportunity which would not have been tabled if it were not for the success of this project.

Brandanii have made recommendations for increasing the knowledge of our agricultural heritage and understanding what lessons we could learn to support sustainable living in the present. This is something we would like to take forward.

Finances – Project costs, changes and match funding

Project Start

The total projected costs were £104,424. This followed a small adjustment of £1,520 being removed as we were advised that Horticulturists Self-funding of RHS Level 2 – Practical Horticulture was an ineligible item within the project.

We applied for support from Heritage Lottery Fund for £60,838 with match funding provided by Fyne Futures and People in Communities Fund via Fyne Homes of £43,586. We had a verbal indication that People in Communities Fund were approved in principle. Fyne Futures board approved our direct contribution, to allow application to be completed. Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed successful application 25th February 2014 – amount awarded £60,900. We were delighted to receive the full award requested, with 50% paid before Project Go 1st April 2014.

We did not spot at this point that there was a discrepancy in the paper work stating total project costs of £94,500 and that one of the budget lines was different from our application and one of the match funding budget lines was missing. Our budget descriptors were put into HLF cost headings, and this caused us a bit of confusion, particularly when we accessed the online portal.

The budget line which was recorded incorrectly was - Horticulturist salary budget at £20,000 with 50% Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and 50% People In Communities. This was moved to a Full Cost Recovery Heading and an amount of £10,000 recorded. The match funding from People in Communities of £10,000 was missing. It was not until we came to make the claim for 40% of project costs that this issue came to light.

Procurement

We endeavour to conduct robust procurement at all times. We will generally buy on island to fit with our aims of supporting local economy and policy of green procurement however if items are

considerably cheaper online – we adopt a best price decision making policy. There are occasions when services or goods are specialist and in such cases we try to achieve best value for money.

We had two named partners to achieve the project outcomes – Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RGE) and Ryton Organic Gardens, which we had committed to as part of the project development. In addition, we conducted a tender process to appoint a consultant to support the historical research and academic outputs of the project.

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

This part of the project has gone well. Laura Cohen of RGE has been very supportive with advice, support and facilitation of the outcomes we sought. We would recommend any community garden to explore working with RGE where they have a goal to increase knowledge and capability.

During project development, we had looked at a number of partners to support an outcome of delivering accredited training at Bute Produce. There were a number of issues to address – costs; time constraints and the type of training. It was important that the training we would offer would be accessible to all and really practical. It was also important that we could achieve tutor and site accreditation within the project year. Finally, it was important that costs of achieving accreditation and ongoing delivery of the training were not prohibitive.

The CPPIA Internship with RGE Memorandum of Understanding provided the right solution for Bute Produce to become an accredited training site with qualified tutor/assessor to delivery Certificate in Practical Horticulture (CPH). We felt that the CPH was also the right type of course for our target market.

The only budget issue came with travel and accommodation costs. We had anticipated that it would be possible for our delegates to the CPPIA Internship to travel back and forth. However once the detail of the learning event came through it became apparent that accommodation would be required. The timing of the event also made it difficult to secure affordable accommodation.

Ryton Organic Gardens

Ryton Organic Gardens offers specialist training in the art of seed saving. This is an important heritage skill which is in danger of being lost as more and more F1 hybrid seeds are used in food production. Communication with Ryton Organic Gardens could have been better. Once more the costs associated with travel and accommodation gave a bit of concern. The plan was changed from an initial big group trip to Ryton with return visit by one of their tutors to a Train the Trainer learning event including sharing of training resources with return visits by one of their tutors to our site.

The Train the Trainer trip worked very well giving an excellent learning experience to both Bute Produce horticulturists and Campbelltown Community Garden horticulturist.

Anna Corbett was appointed to deliver the training at Bute Produce. It was a good day with two people from Campbelltown Community Garden attending along with islanders. We had hoped for Anna to come back and do a further session, which would revisit in particular seed storage learning, however Ryton were unable to facilitate this. The implications for the budget were a significant underspend on the budget line associated with this.

Tender for History Consultant

Public Contracts Scotland portal was used to facilitate the tender process. The tender was published on 1st April 2014. There were 17 notes of interest however only 2 completed bids. Brandanii Archaeology was appointed on the basis that their tender was within budget and proposed project delivery fitted well with our objectives.

Brandanii performed well and produced quality pieces of work. They were flexible and able to work with the local primary schools when timetabling issues meant that the citizen science project was delayed. It was disappointing that the informal enthusiasm for the project could not be translated into formal commitment to capture on tape stories from the farming community however; the other outputs from the project did not suffer in consequence.

Changes

We have had very few changes to the project. We have had three grant officers over the time of the project. Catriona McPherson was very helpful in the first few weeks of the project. Catriona approved press releases, early publicity and recruitment plan; she gave timely feedback that she was happy that we were following guidance correctly. We confirmed job descriptions, salaries, procurement processes and good progress was made.

First change - June 2014 – We advised Fyne Futures changed bank account and we wanted to give an early update on our progress. We highlighted the discrepancies around the salary budget lines. We were advised that a letter was required about the bank account details which were duly sent.

We were then asked to write another letter with board signatory or re-submit the permission to start form which would be updated with the new details. There was some difficulty with the online portal which eventually Laura McDonald and Annie Mottisfont helped with. It took to end of August for this to be reconciled and received automatic email confirmation on 29th August indicating successful permission to start etc. In the meantime we sent an email with short update, photos, and links to online media to new grant officer, Katherine Wynn.

Second change – October 2014 – Following review of project activities undertaken and planning sessions based on from recommendations made in Brandanii report, we indicated that we wanted to make a change request amongst the Training for Staff and Travel for Staff headings to reflect over spend in travel and accommodation and underspend with Seeds Guardian training. Again there were issues with the online portal submission 27th November 2014. Email confirming request with spreadsheet was sent due to lack of confidence in our online submission. We were advised of new grant officer, Richard Cartwright. There quite a few issues with how we had input the data on the portal, again the issue of the incorrect budget lines relating to Horticulturalist salary was highlighted by email and we received feedback on what information was needed. With seasonal holidays, sickness and need for further clarification, it was end of February before final resolution of change requests, progress report and claim for 40% release of funds was achieved. The information was provided via email with spreadsheet attachments. The portal was not updated to reflect what had been approved.

Match Funding

The original application outlined two sources of match funding – Fyne Futures and People in Communities.

People in Communities (PIC) were to provide funding for 50% of Horticultural Leader and two work-based horticultural trainees. The PIC funding was part of a larger project supporting employment and training opportunities across Argyll & Bute, applied for by our parent company Fyne Homes. The development of horticulture was a specific element of the larger project to link with Heritage Horticulture Training project.

As, already outlined, the detail held in the portal had £10,000 match funding for Horticultural Trainer missing. The impact of this seems to be on total project costs and % of grant awarded. We are not sure what, if anything, the significance of this is.

Due to re-profiling of PIC fund, we sought additional funding from SCVO to support delivery of work-based training placements outcome.

Fyne Futures put additional people resource to Bute Produce and to support the project. We felt it was important to create the right conditions to ensure lasting legacy, particularly with regard to Heritage Horticulture Training Centre.

Rab Duff was appointed Horticultural Assistant reporting to Ronnie Armstrong. Rab has been a wonderful support in maintaining day to day operation when Ronnie was off site training. He has developed leadership skills and is becoming a talented trainer. Budget connected to this role £13,935.

Caroline Speirs, Sales & Marketing, has been a fabulous support ensuring PR about the project, events and activities have been professional and fun.

However we have not included the costs associated with these personnel in the project costs as they were not part of the approved project.

What we expected to receive to deliver the project

Description	Source of Funding	Value
Horticulturist Salary	People in Communities	£10,000
Work-Based Trainees	People in Communities	£19,200
Support for core costs	Income from on-site turbine	£1,500
Core costs – project connected	Fyne Futures	£12,900
Delivery costs – project connected	Heritage Lottery	£60,900
	Total	£104,500

What's actually been received to 31st March 2015

Description	Source of Funding	Value
Horticulturist Salary	People in Communities	£9,562
Work-Based Trainees	People in Communities/SCVO*	£10,478**

Support for core costs	Income from on-site turbine	£1,412
Core costs – project connected	Fyne Futures	£8,466
Delivery costs – project connected	Heritage Lottery	£54,810
	Total	£84,728

* SCVO supported appointed of work-based trainees on 16 hour per week @ 78 weeks placements. This means that the training opportunities extend beyond the lifetime of HLF project and form part of the legacy. Funding connected to this extension will account for a further £14,611.

** PIC £5063 and SCVO £5415

Project End

The final project costs amount to £89,485 with evidence to support. This is split into £59,564 of spend against approved HLF budget headings¹⁰. Fyne Futures budget spend against approved headings is £9,878. Spending on match budget headings is £20,040. There is a discrepancy of £4 due to rounding.

The differences between project spend £89,485 and contributions already received £84,728 is £4,757.

On updating the portal, section 9 Final Payment Request, we have a few discrepancies.

- The first claim was for period 1st April 2014 – 31st October 2014. Initially rejected online. Subsequently approved using spreadsheets which contained only HLF budget items, as per instructions from grant officer.
- “Previously approved expenditure” £34,889 does not reflect the approved budget headings actual expenditure which was £51,099.27. Grant officer approved evidence against HLF approved budget headings of £35,231.54 but did not want sight of Fyne Futures/Matching Funding evidence totalling £15,867.37.
- “Expenditure covered by this request” £38,386 includes total project costs regardless of funding source. We believe this is what the portal is asking for.
- “Amount previously received” £54,810 is correct.
- Portal suggests we need to repay £7,914 based on in an incorrect total expenditure of £73,275 with “grant percentage” of 64% applied which equals £46,896, minus “amount previously received”.
- Our actual total expenditure is £89,485, if “grant percentage” of 64% applied this equals £57,267, minus “amount previously received” £54,810 therefore we have an outstanding final claim of £2,457.

We would appreciate confirmation of our understanding in order to achieve financial close.

¹⁰ Please see supporting finance evidence

Review

What worked well and why?

Bute Heritage Horticultural Training Centre and Seed Bank have been successful in completing all the outputs set out in the plan. It is achieving the outcomes that will provide a lasting legacy for Fyne Futures and the community of Bute.

Working with Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh has been an enjoyable experience. It has been a delight to support six new entrants to horticulture in achieving accreditation. RGBE guidance, support and practical help ensured that we achieved the objectives set out toward becoming a training centre. We look forward to delivering the next round of Certificate in Practical Horticulture in 2015/16 and a fruitful partnership as we continue to develop.

The link with Ryton Organic Gardens added a wonderful dimension to understanding heritage horticulture. We expected to learn about seed saving however the knowledge gained about all the other aspects of growing for seed, plant and seed selection, seed husbandry from storage to propagation was much more than we realised. There is certainly a deal more learning to achieve.

Supporting Campbeltown Community Garden, sharing knowledge and best practise, and increasing their capability to deliver training has been very worthwhile. Appreciating the limitations of resources at both sites, understanding how we could support each other to increase training capacity across Argyll & Bute and exchanging the information about the challenges faced in each community has strengthened relationships.

Presenting the outcomes of the history project has been great fun and, we believe, has academic merit. Practical application of learning to achieve a successful crop of Bute Heritage Potatoes could not have gone better. The enthusiasm of the team, trainees and volunteers was infectious for everyone which came into direct contact with the project. We truly demonstrated that our heritage can be very much of today's culture, and that the environmental friendly practises of the past have relevance for some of the issues of today.

What didn't work and why?

It would have been better to have a more developed relationship with Ryton Organic Gardens however time, distance and resources all played their part in diminishing the experience. This will not deter us from pursuing the connection and maintaining dialogue with their team.

The portal – we struggled right from the start to access, input data, and demonstrate the fantastic progress the project was making. It has had a pivotal part in causing confusion on the financial management side of the project. The change of grant officers was unfortunate and we regret not having the opportunity to develop better relationships with them. This may have been helpful in overcoming the issues with the portal.

How much of the difference would have happened anyway?

A key goal was to become an accredited training centre. If we had been unsuccessful in gaining HLF support, we would have continued to pursue this. It is doubtful whether we would have achieved such a great result over the course of the last year, and certainly we would have had to compromise on the aim to maintain and build knowledge and skills of heritage horticulture.

Bringing Bute Heritage Potato varieties back into production would not have happened in any other way without HLF support. There was so much to learn and put into practise that Bute Produce could not have dedicated the resource to it without the Our Heritage Fund. This heritage work would not have been undertaken by any other organisation on the island.

Without the project, the historical research, interpretation and presentation of our agricultural heritage would not have happened. The valuable knowledge gained may have been lost. Brandanii are working on other aspects of our agricultural heritage but have acknowledged this project has been “innovative and offers useful lessons for future local growing initiative”.

We have successful collaborative relationship with the nurseries and primary schools on the island, based on environmental messages and supporting Eco-schools. Those relationships would have continued and will continue anyway. Our Heritage project gave a new dynamic to these relationships with the citizen science project that is ongoing.

Our relationship with secondary education has been limited to supporting work experience. However, this project enabled development of a relationship with Rothesay Academy which is centred on supporting curriculum for excellence learning across a range of subjects – history, geography and home economics. This has been a goal for us as a social enterprise for some time. We may have achieved that goal at some future point but likelihood was low. There is work to be done to build on the project.

Summary of lessons learnt

Engaging with heritage is inspirational and motivational. It has lifted Bute Produce to new heights. We have learned much about the different ways in which people can connect with an historical narrative and become enthusiastic about heritage being part of our everyday cultural references.

Working collaboratively with other organisations has helped us understand the wider context of heritage horticulture and crystallised what we believed to be true. There is an under provision of training opportunities in this field despite their being a market demand for skilled employees.

The project has not finished, by its very nature it will continue on for this year and hopefully many years to come. We will build on the great start made to developing Heritage Horticulture Training Centre on Bute in a number of ways:

- Continue our learning journey, particularly with seed husbandry
- Build our knowledge across heritage horticulture, particularly composting for food production
- Build on the relationship with Rothesay Academy
- Fully develop our training programme to reach our target markets

Overall it has been a wonderfully fulfilling year.



Appendix

- Appendix 1 – Project Plan
- Appendix 2 – Project Activities Timeline
- Appendix 3 – CPHIA Internship Overview
- Appendix 4 – Growing heritage Potatoes
- Appendix 5 – Heritage Seed Potatoes Storage Trial
- Appendix 6 – Research Project Outputs and Recommendations
- Appendix 7 – Heritage Potatoes Events Review

Media Outputs

- Printed – accompanies this report
 - A Short History of the Potato on Bute pdf
 - Bute Heritage Potatoes History & Growing Guide pdf
 - Potato Recipe Booklet pdf
- Online
 - <http://www.discoverbutearchaeology.co.uk/?p=1229>
 - <http://www.fynefutures.org.uk/who-are-fyne-futures/our-projects/>
 - <http://www.fynefutures.org.uk/buteproduce/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ButeProduce?ref=hl>
 - <https://twitter.com/TZCB>
 - <https://plus.google.com/u/0/106174068716610520033/videos>
 -
- Other - Visual Aids
 - Pop up banners
 - Garden black boards
 - Heritage Lottery Fund signs

Supporting Evidence

- Project Costs Final Report.xls
 - Evidence spend 1 FF.xls
 - Evidence spend 2 HLF.xls
 - Evidence spend 2 FF.xls
 - Salary evidence pdf's monthly for spend 2nd period
 - Invoice evidence spend 2.pdf
- Outputs from Research Project
 - Heritage Potatoes Final Thoughts.doc
 - Schools Growing Letter.pdf
 - Report pending - <http://www.discoverbutearchaeology.co.uk/?p=1229>
- Horticultural Heritage Skills
 - Certificate in Practical Horticulture
 - Assessor Certificates
 - Trainee Certificates