



Creating a Sustainable Gryffe
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC052990

Annual Report 2025

2025 has been a busy year for us with lots of activities to look back on, including starting up the Gryffe Valley Repair Café, supporting food growing initiatives, running a retrofit hub and sharing our learning more widely.

Gryffe Repair Cafe

The main focus of our activity during 2025 has been the launch and running of the Gryffe Valley Repair Cafe. On 11th January 25 we held a “soft launch” event where our volunteers invited their friends and family to bring along items for repair. This event proved very successful and allowed our volunteers to gain confidence and familiarise themselves with our processes ahead of our first public event.

Since this initial launch, in 2025, we have held a further ten Repair Cafes from February to November. These events have been very well supported by the community and our repairers have fixed a wide range of items including:

- Electrical items
- Textiles and clothes
- Bicycles
- Jewellery
- Toys
- Heirlooms and treasured items





Whilst our visitors waited for their items to be repaired, they enjoyed tea and coffee and our home baking and sandwiches, whilst chatting to and making connections with other community members.

What impact have we had?

Throughout the year, we had a total of 160 items presented for repair, with 114 successful repairs. Using the Farnham Repair Cafe Carbon Calculator, this has saved an estimated 3751kg of carbon emissions, which is the equivalent of driving 15,576 miles. In addition, we have saved our visitors money as they have not been required to buy a new item. We have bought some visitors great joy when we have fixed a treasured item.



Our Repair Cafe has also offered residents a warm and friendly community space which has been much appreciated.

Some examples of the wonderful feedback from our visitors:

excellent friendly service, loved the coffee, chat, meeting people from the village whilst waiting
friendliness effectiveness
very welcoming and inspiring
everything was great



Aside from our regular Repair Cafe, we held a “Darn and Yarn” event in Linwood Library, where we shared darning skills and undertook some textile repairs whilst chatting and sharing refreshments.

Thank you to OneRen and the staff at Linwood Library for their support.

We were invited by Renfrewshire Climate Action Network to bring our Repair Cafe to their Repair Fair in Paisley, where, amongst other things, our repairers delighted everyone by fixing a much-treasured cuckoo clock.

This event was featured in the Paisley Gazette, which commented:

“A highlight of the day was the Gryffe Repair Cafe team mending the 1960s cuckoo clock, along with other items including a ripped jumper, a broken record player and a faulty Bluetooth speaker.”





Sharing Our Story

As the first Repair cafe in Renfrewshire, we have been sharing our learning and experiences with others. In September we presented an online session with Lanarkshire Climate Hub, sharing our experiences of setting up a Repair Cafe.

This was followed by a presentation on 2nd October, at Paisley Central Library hosted by Renfrewshire Climate Action Network, as well as participation in a Circular Communities Panel at their Networking event in October.



Additionally, we have hosted both local charity Active Communities and Milngavie Development Trust at our regular Repair Cafes so they can experience first-hand how our Repair cafe is run. We are hoping to share the benefits of Repair Cafe's far and wide.

Celebrating our Success

All this has only been possible due to our 18 volunteers and at the end of the year we celebrated with them at a local restaurant. We want to thank them for all their hard work, skills, commitment and humour which has made running the Repair Cafe such a delight.



Supporting and Developing Local Food Growing Initiatives

During 2025 we have continued to be involved with Houston Community Growing Association (HCGA) with the aim of supporting them to identify a local community food growing space. At the start of 2025, the group were still hopeful of having a viable allotment site on land offered by Houston Farms, but unfortunately after months learning from other growing organisations, meeting with the landowner and doing our sums, it was evident that this land did not present a viable proposition. Since this time HCGA have been liaising with Renfrewshire Council about potential land options within the community, suitable for a community garden. Whilst there is some way to go, before this is secured, it is an exciting opportunity to be able to access land to grow food for the benefit of the members and wider community.

In spring 2025 Creating a Sustainable Gryffe were generously donated two large Jora composters by Propagate, for use in the community. The ultimate plan is for HCGA to utilise the finished compost within the community garden. Currently the composters are located and managed





in the gardens of a member of HCGA and a Trustee of Creating a Sustainable Gryffe. Food waste donations are accepted from the group and wider community. This activity is supporting sustainable use of waste, as well as supporting soil microbes, and in the future local food growing.

Energy Saving and Retrofit Event

In November we partnered with a local resident, Jonathan Annan, Chartered Surveyor and retrofit expert, to host a Community Retrofit Event. The purpose of the event was to:

- Encourage and support community members to retrofit their homes
- Gauge interest in exploring the potential for a community retrofitting initiative



Home Energy Scotland also supported the event by advising on energy saving measures, grant availability and the offer of follow-up home visits.

Feedback from the event indicated that attendees felt both “more likely knowing where to start” on their retrofit journey and are “more likely to take the plunge.”



“Getting ideas which don’t break the bank”
“Useful to have different people and tailored advice”
“Hearing about the availability of grants”

We used the event to gather attendees' views about what they would find helpful in supporting their retrofit journey. There was support for a local online forum, including a list of trusted tradesmen, where people could share their views and experiences of retrofitting. This could be a potential future initiative for the charity.

Thank you to Jonathan Annan, Home Energy Scotland, and Renfrewshire Climate Action Network for supporting this event.

Reflections and Future Plans

During 2025, with the support of our volunteers, Creating a Sustainable Gryffe has successfully established the Gryffe Repair Cafe as a valued community resource. This encouraged and achieved climate positive behaviours whilst supporting community resilience and cohesion and fostering



community connections. We have shared our experiences across Renfrewshire and established a positive reputation in the wider area.

Whilst celebrating our successes, we remain committed not only to building on our “Share and Repair” success, with the development of a Library of Things, but also to fulfilling our other strategic goals:

- Creating a renewable energy hub
- Promoting active and sustainable travel
- Supporting and developing local food growing initiatives
- Enhancing biodiversity by making gardens and community spaces wilder

The greatest barriers to our progress in these areas has been the capacity of our board, which currently consists of three members, as well as funding constraints, which have proved particularly challenging given the demographic of our area of benefit.

During the year we have continued to engage with both Bridge of Weir and Houston Community Councils, including participating in the development of the Local Place Plans for the area. Whilst these plans have yet to be finalised, it is apparent that there is significant overlap between our ambitions and those identified within the community plans. After some consideration, and following discussions with nearby Development Trusts, we end the year proposing to transition our charity into a Development Trust, with the aim of building community capacity and hopefully becoming a vehicle to assist the community with implementing their plans. We therefore end the year looking forward to these exciting developments during 2026.

Appreciation and Acknowledgements

Our most sincere thanks must go to our talented, inventive and hard-working volunteers, without whom none of our activities would be possible. We would also like to thank:

- Renfrewshire Council for funding the set up of our Repair Cafe through their Sustainable Communities Fund
- Jane Owens from the Share and Repair Network for her valuable support and advice
- RenCAN for funding our Retrofit Event and especially Svenja Meyerricks for supporting and championing both us and share and repair initiatives across Renfrewshire.
- Jonathan Annan and Home Energy Scotland for supporting our Retrofit Event
- Propagate for donating our Jora Composters
- and everyone who has come along to support our events.



CASGRYFFE@GMAIL.COM

Financial Statement

Our audited accounts are attached to this report. In 2024, we had received seed funding from Renfrewshire Council to set up and cover the running costs of the Repair Café for one year (£5381), which paid for all of the 2025 repair café events. This included purchase of tools, consumables, hall hire, setting up and hosting a website, insurance, promotional materials, volunteer training in PAT testing and First Aid, a volunteer celebration event, food and drink costs among other minor expenditure.

We received donations at each Repair Cafes which go towards the ongoing and future running costs of the Repair Café (hall hire, insurance, consumables/tools, ingredients for food) of £840.38.

We received additional restricted funding to run the retrofit event (£399.64) and towards general running costs (which we have used for a second year of hosting our website) from RenCAN (£250).

All of these are “restricted funds” which means they can only used for specific activities they are intended for.

Unrestricted funds are funds that can be used freely, as long as the expenditure furthers our purposes as outlined in our governing document.

We managed to generate small amounts of unrestricted income through delivering presentations and some donations (£678.86), adding to unrestricted donations received in 2024 (£1166.10). This means that we have been able to build up a small reserve which will support both sustaining our current activities and planning future activities, as well as ensure that we are able to cover governance related costs.

We still need to generate some additional funding. For illustration, the donations received at the repair café do not cover the full costs of running it (the biggest expense is the hall hire), so we depend on additional funds, albeit small, to continue running the repair café. This can either come from restricted funds we obtain, which will be specifically for the Repair Café, or from unrestricted funds. New projects and activities will also only be possible if additional funding is obtained. Clear plans for specific projects are most likely to attract funding. We would particularly benefit from funding for part time staffing and a base from which to operate to help us implement some of our ideas.

It is good practice to generate reasonable reserves which we have made progress towards, including developing our reserves policy.

Our accounts are checked and audited by an independent company and then submitted to OSCR and are publicly available.