



THE FNY COLLECTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



ABOUT US

We are a registered UK charity and our aim is to advance women's participation in mountain biking.

Based in the Tweed Valley, we are a small committee of trustees along with a management committee who organise events and programmes for women.

We run events throughout the year, volunteer led to encourage more women to get out on bikes and enjoy the physical, social and mental benefits of mountain biking.



OUR TRUSTEES

Report signed off by:

- Sarah Mulligan, Chair of FNY Collective
- Hazel Nicholson, Trustee
- Jen Connolly, Trustee

Big thanks to Krysia Smith for her support in auditing our accounts.

OUR VISION

We take pride in what we do and the value that comes from being a part of the FNY Collective. We want our tribe to grow not just in numbers but in terms of confidence of our members and their ability to ride to their best ability, to challenge themselves and push their own boundaries. We know this will have a long lasting effect on building strength and resilience into their everyday life.



Lead

We believe in having positive role models and to increase the number of women in leadership roles. For too long, the space has been dominated by men and we want to change this. We want to break the glass ceiling so that we see more women on the trails leading the way.

Connect

We make people laugh, we don't take ourselves too seriously, we have women that come alone and find their tribe through the FNY Collective.

Include

Our costs are low to join our events, we have diversified our rides to make them more appealing to a wider audience and we welcome e bikes at all our events.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Generated income of £28,039 during the year from a combination of Grant Funding, Event Fees & Donations. We have been grateful to receive funding or donations from the following funders, fundraisers and donors:

- Scottish Borders Council (SBC)
- Destination Tweed
- Proud supporters of FNY (generous individual donations)

Restricted funding (£21,090) was used to deliver, in line with funder requirements, specific projects such as:

- Return of the Hunt & HERitage trail
- Active Travel
- Ride & Thrive



Bank balance at end of the year was £10,132, of which £5,973 is restricted for Active Travel & Ride & Thrive activities, as granted to us by SBC.

Unrestricted funding (£6,949) provided flexibility to:

- Support core operational costs (e.g. subscriptions; governance)
- Enable delivery of services where restricted funding was not available
- Invest in organisational development

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN THE LAST YEAR?



We have had up over 300 participants attend our events across all our projects.

We received funding from Destination Tweed, and Scottish Borders council to run a series of MTB events to increase participation and access to riding. We ran events in Innerleithen, Walkerburn, and Glentress.



Our flagship event the Hunt was a huge success based in the gorgeous surroundings of Traquair House with over 100 women dressed as their female icons, it was an event not to be missed despite the weather! We said we were taking a year off on the Hunt off but then it never happened!



OUR FLAGSHIP EVENT



RIDE AND THRIVE



Wellness and Nature

Saunas, forest bathing, outdoor picnics, wild water dooks, yoga and everything that connects to our love of mountain biking was part of Ride and Thrive programme.

The weather was kind to us! We had lots of big groups come out for these sessions and enjoying doing something a little different connecting with nature through our love of bikes. More than half the women who attended were completely new to mountain biking as these events were intended to reach out to a new women in the community.



ACTIVE TRAVEL



Active travel challenge where over 50 women took part to document their use of the bike for active travel - going to the shops, meeting friends, communitying to work. It was great to partner up with Ride Innerleithen where we gave out a bike starter kit as an incentive to get women more active for travel.

Making sure our women are trail ready! Bike mechanics with Lou was a great way to get some of our newbies confident with punctures, breaking a chain, keeping your bike well maintained. Lou carried out 6 sessions for the FNY, thanks to Dirty brewing for their generous support to base ourselves in their venue space.



ACTIVE TRAVEL

We made a film!



DESTINATION TWEED



This project was all about connecting the bike with the river that flows through the Tweed Valley. We loved our outreach for this project meeting older women in local residential homes sharing their stories of their love of bikes and the outdoors. These stories have all been documented as part of the HERitage trail.

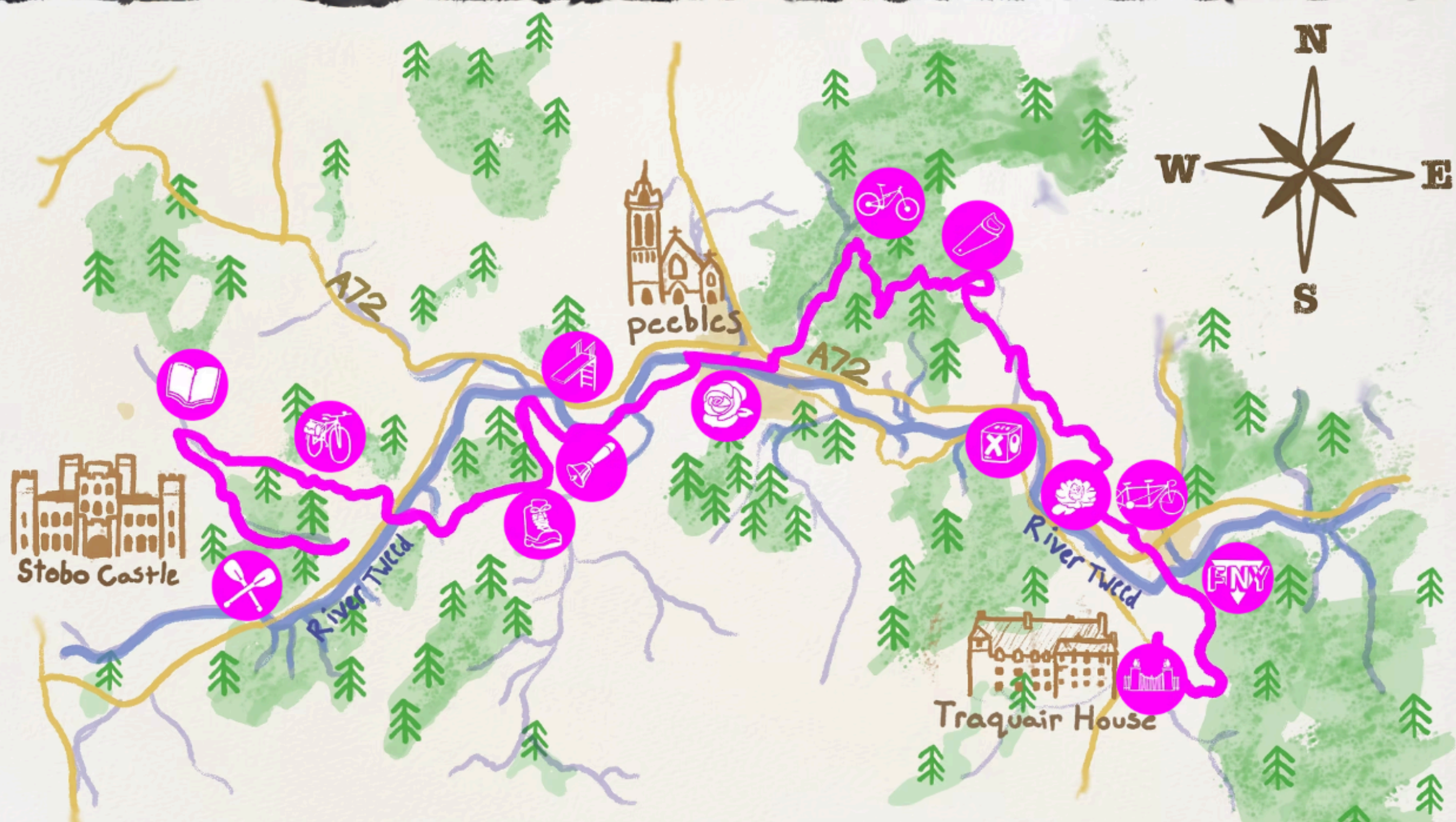
There's a great blog written up by Destination Tweed on what we achieved with the The HERitage trail map which can be accessed on our website.



HERitage
Trail

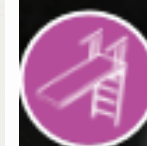
The HERitage Trail is a celebration of women's untold outdoor stories along the River Tweed — brought to life on two wheels by the FNY Collective. Funded by the Destination Tweed Community Grants Scheme, this project gathers local voices, histories, and routes to connect women past and present through nature, biking, and shared adventure.

Click on the map icons below to bring these stories to life!



ELEANOR

Eleanor embraced the open roads of the Borders in the 1950s and '60s, bikepacking between youth hostels (including Barns), discovering freedom, adventure, and joy on two wheels - powered by quiet lanes and endless possibilities. She still lives locally in sheltered housing and has inspired subsequent generations - her granddaughter has trekked through the Himalayas. Her philosophy is simple - "You don't see life if you stay in the house, as life is outside. Get outside and grab it."



MARGARET

Margaret was one of a generation of Peebleans who learned to swim (and dive!) at The Dookits in the middle decades of the 20th century. This deep pool on the River Tweed still attracts swimmers to this day, even though only the foundations of the diving board remain. Margaret now lives in Riverside House, overlooking the Tweed.

COLLABORATIONS



Big thanks to Innerleithen pipe band hall, John Adam Bakery, Traquair Arms, Durty Brewing, Traquair Hoiuse, The Innerleithen Hub, Dirt School, Nic Johnson, Strong as F, Cedar Haus - we couldnt do it without you!



SUPPORT



Big thanks to our funders Destination Tweed and Scottish Borders Council and everyone who has donated to the charity.



PUBLICITY



We were on the telly - we filmed this in October so our next report will feature the story but it was just before Storm Amy was fast approaching and we were glad we made the cut despite the chaos before hand!

Women Ride the Tweed

We made national news with a double spread in the Times, the Scotsman and the Herald!!



SPEAKING EVENTS



We were delighted to have had Claire come and speak at the Destination Tweed launch event where she gave the most passionate speech about how you can change your life around through active play

We were also delighted to have Lady Catherine Maxwell Stuart and Stewart Wilson come and share their stories of active women along the Tweed.



OUR VOLUNTEERS



We have formed a community network for our volunteers to help build a stronger bond between our riders.

We have over 20 volunteers who support us with all our events. We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for them!



BUILDING A COMMUNITY



We set up our whats app community and we love it - great way to engage with everyone!



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.

E-mail thefnycollective@gmail.com

Website www.thefnycollective.com

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