The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2011
“The outstanding achievements made by the projects featured in this year’s SURF Awards are all the more impressive when you consider the challenges and pressures they are operating under. More than ever, now is the time for all of us concerned with community regeneration in Scotland to make sure we are doing all we can to support and replicate examples of best practice.”

Triumphs in Tough Times
Each year, SURF and the Scottish Government work together to highlight, celebrate and share examples of innovation and excellence in day-to-day community regeneration activity across Scotland.

This publication provides information on the 17 projects shortlisted from the over 60 entries we received for the 2011 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

Selected by an independent panel of 16 judges over an intensive six weeks long consideration process, these initiatives show a myriad of effective work delivered in communities as far apart as Stranraer and Shetland.

The SURF Awards have four categories – People, Place, Partnership and Employability for All. In each category, the judging panel identified an outright winner and one highly commended runner-up. We hope that the examples of success provided on the following pages provide inspiration and encouragement to others working or volunteering in regeneration sectors in a difficult climate typified by resource restrictions and rising demand.

Facing the Future
In 2012, SURF will be working with the Scottish Government and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to offer opportunities to explore transferable lessons from the four winning projects through study visit events and case study publications.

We have also been using the lessons and trends from recent SURF Awards processes to provide constructive feedback to the Scottish Government and help inform the development of the forthcoming National Regeneration Strategy and the anticipated Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. We are pleased that early indications show a strong policy appetite for providing further national support for the development of community assets and enterprises. Community-led regeneration was again a prominent trait in this year’s SURF Awards shortlist.

Also featured, on pages 12-13, is an update on how last year’s SURF Award winners have fared in 2011. We are pleased to report that all are continuing to make a big difference in their respective urban and rural communities as they work and plan for a healthy long-term future.

Collaboration and Cooperation
The importance of effective partnership working and cross-agency teamwork is also to the fore in this year’s shortlist — and not just in the Partnership category.

The whole SURF Awards process is also a successful partnership, and SURF greatly appreciates the continuing support of two Scottish Government departments – Communities Analytical Services and the Employability Team. This has enabled us to successfully deliver the four award categories, and to highlight the outcomes in this publication as well as organising a celebratory dinner event with Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment Alex Neil MSP.

We are also highly appreciative of the extensive efforts of the judging panel members and the organisations that allow them to take time out to travel the country far and wide to visit each of the shortlisted initiatives. You can find out who was on the 2011 judging panel on page 15.

As Scotland’s independent regeneration network, SURF’s work is built on the experience and support of our diverse, cross-sector membership of over 250 organisations, which make up the SURF network. We are particularly grateful for the commitment shown by our key sponsoring organisations, who are highlighted on page 16.

You can find out more about SURF’s activities, and how to be a part of our network, by visiting our website: www.scotregen.co.uk

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People Category: winner
Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project

What is the aim of the main project?
The Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project (GEAAP) aims to significantly reduce the harm associated with the use and misuse of alcohol.

Where is it taking place?
The project delivers services across the east end of Glasgow, a geography with one of the lowest life expectancies in the UK. The area also suffers from the highest death rate from alcohol abuse in Scotland.

What has been achieved?
A wide range of free services are offered to members of local communities, including: one-to-one counselling; a dedicated support service for young people aged 12-18; a befriending service; an award-winning Young Booze Busters education programme delivered in 38 local primary schools; a women’s group; services targeted at those affected by homelessness; and additional awareness activities delivered via local workshops, presentations, and information stalls.

Project monitoring has shown that 65% of participants that complete the counselling service successfully achieve their goal of either controlled drinking or abstinence. A 2007 independent evaluation said of the initiative’s primary school work that, “the pupils had a substantial knowledge base on alcohol’s impact… physically, mentally and on their life chances.” A recent independent Process Analysis concluded that every £1 invested in the project resulted in a £10 cost saving for public funds.

Who is running it?
GEAAP has existed as a community-based education programme since 1991; it recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The project currently has 14 staff and 28 locally recruited volunteers. Funding is provided by Glasgow City Council, Glasgow’s Homelessness Partnership, East Glasgow Community Health Care Partnership, Comic Relief, the Tudor Trust, the Big Lottery Fund, and through public donations.

Why did the judging panel like it so much?
This project delivers crucial support services to some of the most vulnerable members of a disadvantaged community. It was clear to the judges that GEAAP is a truly people-centred initiative that provides a wide range of social, cultural, and physical activities to help people overcome considerable challenges.

Many service users have gone on to become trained volunteers, sharing the experience they went through to help others. The judging panel additionally admired the development of new income streams through the promotion of the successful Young Booze Busters programme across Scotland – and the potential this has to contribute towards the education and empowering of young people around the issues of alcohol at a national level.

For these reasons – and more besides – GEAAP was chosen as the overall winner in the People category of the 2011 SURF Awards.

Where can I find out more?
Please visit www.geaap.com or contact GEAAP Project Manager Stewart McKay on 0141 773 1222 or geaap1@btconnet.com.
**Place Category: winner**

**Dedridge Environmental Ecology Project**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
Dedridge Environmental Ecology Project (DEEP) exists to improve and enhance a heavily polluted urban watercourse, restore local ponds, manage an over-mature woodland, and enhance a poor quality landscape.

**Where is it taking place?**
In Dedridge, an area in the south of Livingston in West Lothian. The wetland area comprises Dedridge Pond, the nearby Dedridge Burn, and the surrounding habitat.

**What has been achieved?**
A popular nature trail has been created around this area, where visitors can sit on natural benches, admire sculptures by local artists and feed ducks and swans with bags of special nutritional food available from the nearby Lanthorn Community Complex. Islands have been created in the pond to attract local wetland birds, and a de-silting tank has been installed to aid sustainability.

Ten areas of interest are highlighted in locally available leaflets. The woodland has undergone substantial trimming, drainage, and landscaping work, and has been replanted with native tree and shrub species. School visits are common and additional area features include bat boxes, wildflower areas and the ‘geocache’ technological hide-and-seek game.

DEEP’s success has been recognised in several national awards schemes, including the 2011 Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards (as winner in Community Woods category) and the 2010 Scotland’s Learning Partnership Awards (as winner of Good Practice Award in Adult Learning).

**Who is running it?**
DEEP was created by members of Dedridge Community Council in 2007. The project continues to be operated by a group of local volunteers. Original funding was provided by a Land Securities Group community projects grant, and current support comes from West Lothian Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland.

**Why did the judging panel like it so much?**
For the judging panel, one of the most notable aspects of DEEP was the high level of involvement of local residents in transforming a neglected local space into a beautiful and prized community asset. Set in the heart of the community, the natural resource of the ponds and surrounding woodland has now been developed into a community resource that provides a place for people of all ages to benefit in terms of health, education and access to natural heritage.

The judges were particularly impressed by the high levels of community pride in the initiative and the ways in which constructive and mutually beneficial partnerships have been harnessed to safeguard future maintenance and further development. They were pleased to confirm DEEP as the overall Place category winner in the 2011 SURF Awards.

**How can I find out more?**
Please contact Wilma Shearer, DEEP Secretary, on 01506 416 667 or wilma37@btopenworld.com.
Partnership Category: winner
Community Power Orkney

What is the aim of the main project?
Community Power Orkney was borne out of a need to tackle the common goal of protecting and regenerating several separate island communities across Orkney. Through overcoming the challenges of geography, and by drawing on their strength of partnership working, the project aims to transform these economically challenged island communities by providing a sustainable future for generations to come.

Where is it taking place?
The islands involved in the partnership are Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre, Shapinsay, Stronsay, Westray and Eday to the north of mainland Orkney, and Hoy and South Ronaldsay to the south.

What has been achieved?
The cooperative cross-island partnership has led to the creation of ambitious community development plans for these islands. At the centre of these plans is electricity generated from newly created wind turbines, much of which is sold to the National Grid and reinvested into the communities. This activity and investment is used to address a wide range of issues for the island communities, from fuel poverty and depopulation to under-employment and housing shortages.

Five community-owned wind turbines have been built so far, with a sixth due for completion in May 2012. Costs would have been prohibitive had the island communities attempted to undertake construction independently. By developing economies of scale, taking advantage of collective buying power and sharing knowledge and experience, a joint approach has instead made these renewable energy schemes both viable and productive.

Who is running it?
Community Energy Scotland and its predecessor developed the partnership with several local community groups, which have since evolved into constituted Development Trusts for the respective islands. Additional support has been provided by agencies including the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, Orkney Islands Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

Why did the judging panel like it so much?
The judges saw Community Power Orkney as an exemplar project that presented a great model of partnership working across disparate island communities in Orkney. Through the development of wind turbine installations on the islands, which are estimated to generate £20m over the next 20 years, Community Power Orkney is empowering Orkney’s fragile island communities to create a sustainable economic base to develop a comprehensive and multi pronged approach to regeneration.

As a model of partnership and shared learning that could be adopted by other remote Scottish communities in the Highlands and Islands, Community Power Orkney is an excellent example of best practice. The judges unanimously agreed that Community Power Orkney was a true example of effective partnership working and a worthy winner of the Partnership category of the 2011 SURF Awards.

Where can I find out more?
Please contact Community Power Orkney Chair Mark Hull on 01856 821 447 or mark.hull@communityenergyscotland.org.uk.
Employability for All category: winner
The Coalyard

What is the aim of the main project?
The Coalyard provides transition-to-employment support for young people with learning disabilities. The purpose is to provide participating students with education, training and work experience over a three year course in order that they emerge skilled, confident and ready to work.

Where is it taking place?
The project is based in Larkhall in South Lanarkshire, where it has real operational businesses in which it can offer education and experience including a laundry firm, a community cafe and a catering service. The initiative is open to service users across South Lanarkshire, and the project also manages cafes in other locations in the region such as Lanark and Hamilton.

What has been achieved?
The Coalyard has been running since 2007. Currently, 62 students are participating at a variety of stages. 12 were recently assessed as being ready to move on to some form of employment, and they will join ten others who have previously taken this step.

The project identified an opportunity to manage community cafes in South Lanarkshire Council’s new integrated community hubs, including libraries and leisure centres. Local community members have been highly favourable about the level of customer service and the quality of food offered in these Coalyard-managed cafes.

As well as raising participants’ esteem and communication skills, the initiative offers a number of formal qualifications including an SVQ in food preparation and cooking, certification in basic first aid, and an SQA in laundry service provision. There are plans to diversify into horticulture and bakery businesses so as to further increase the range of available opportunities for students.

Who is running it?
The project is funded and managed by South Lanarkshire Council. Key programme partners include Motherwell College and local employment agencies.

Why did the judging panel like it so much?
The judges felt that the progress The Coalyard has made in the short time since being established in 2007 was impressive. The high quality catering and laundry services the young people provide to the Larkhall community clearly reflected the strong commitment by staff and trainees to setting and maintaining high standards, both in the workplace and in the services delivered to the public.

The judges observed that the role played by more experienced trainees in mentoring new trainees made a significant contribution to developing the confidence and self-esteem of the trainees and establishing strong relationships among all those involved. They also became aware of the excellent reputation The Coalyard developed in its community among members of the public and local businesses and the strength of partnership work.

The judging panel was delighted to select The Coalyard as the overall winner in the Employability for All category.

Where can I find out more?
Please contact Coalyard Manager Lis Brown on 01698 889 902 or liz.brown@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk.
**People Category: highly commended**

**Auchmountain Community Resource Centre**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
Auchmountain Community Resource Centre is a voluntary-managed community facility that seeks to provide a social hub and a much-needed services for local residents.

**Where is it taking place?**
The centre is a former community hall in the Maukinhall neighbourhood of Greenock in Inverclyde.

**What has been achieved?**
In 2005, a £750K refurbishment investment transformed the community hall from an uncared-for building with only one major room to a state of the art community facility that now offers:

- Adult learning classes in a wide variety of subjects
- A youth drop-in centre with evening art & music workshops
- A homework club
- A community launderette and hairdressing salon
- A popular community café
- Themed events for local community members for whom English is a second language

**Who is running it?**
The Centre is run as a partnership between Inverclyde Council, who support some core staff, and a management committee comprising local volunteers. The original £750K investment was provided by the then Scottish Executive through its Better Neighbourhood Services Fund.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
The judges were awed with the determination with which local people not only saved an important historical community building, but converted it from a tired, worn-out space into a thriving, modern hub of activity. The centre, which is run by the community for the community, has clearly become the symbolic heart of local community life.

**Where can I find out more?**
Please visit www.auchmountaincentre.co.uk or contact Centre Manager Ann Marie Lynn on 01475 791 818 or auchmountaincentre@hotmail.co.uk.

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**Place Category: highly commended**

**Kilmartin House Museum**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
To create and maintain a world-class centre for archaeology that helps to protect and investigate an archaeological landscape of international importance, and to conserve and display the artefacts that have been found there.

**Where is it taking place?**
Kilmartin House Museum is located in Kilmartin Glen, an area of Argyll and Bute that is well-known for having a unique complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains. These include over 150 prehistoric sites, such as standing stone ritual and burial monuments.

The land is thought to have been home to the earliest kings of Scotland.

**What has been achieved?**
Since the museum was established in 1997, it has played a central role in the economic rejuvenation of the rural area by offering a focal point for people to celebrate its cultural and natural riches.

It currently has over 2000 objects, attracting over 19,000 visitors per annum and providing jobs for 20 staff in the museum and its associated shop and café. The local economic impact has been estimated at £3m per year. The museum also delivers valuable cultural education services through an events programme that served over 500 children and 2000 adults in 2010.

**Who is running it?**
The museum is operated by Kilmartin House Trust, who raise over half of its running costs through ticket sales, and café & shop revenues. Argyll & Bute Council, Historic Scotland and Highlands & Islands Enterprise are among the partner agencies that contribute additional funding.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
Kilmartin House Museum is an excellent example of an innovative enterprise in a rural area that uses its local assets to benefit local people and place. In a range of commendably creative ways, the archaeological core of the museum activities engages the community’s profound pride in its cultural heritage and creates a springboard to its future. The judges were impressed by the considerable impact of the project on local education and employability outcomes and the significant opportunities offered for volunteering.

**Where can I find out more?**
Please visit www.kilmartin.org or contact Dr Sharon Webb, Kilmartin House Trust Director, on 01546 510 278 or email sharon@kilmartin.org.
Partnership Category:  
**highly commended**

**Pulteneytown People’s Project**

**What is the aim of the main project?**

Pulteneytown People’s Project (PPP) is a community organisation that was set up in 2003 to provide greater social, recreational, learning and work opportunities for residents of Wick.

**Where is it taking place?**

The town of Wick, in the north of mainland Scotland.

**What has been achieved?**

The initiative provides a wide range of services for all ages, just some of which are:

- training schemes and community courses
- after-school care
- youth services
- literacy and numeracy programmes
- hobby groups
- one-to-one job searches
- support for young homeless people

**Who is running it?**

PPP works with the Highland Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Albyn Housing Society, JobCentre Plus, Wick High School, and other local partners. The organisation has also received funding from the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**

The judges felt that PPP presents a robust example of a grassroots community project that comprehensively addresses the needs and aspirations of the people of Wick in a positive and practical way. The scope and scale of the project was particularly impressive, as was the degree of cross partnership working across local and national agencies.

From small beginnings, through determination and hard work, PPP created a model for community cross-partnership working that will culminate in the opening of the £3.4m Pultneytown Community Centre, a brand new heart for the community, in early 2012. The judges were pleased to award the project highly commended status in the Partnership category of the 2011 SURF Awards.

**Where can I find out more?**

Please visit www.pulteneytownpeoplesproject.org.uk or contact PPP Chief Executive Katrina MacNab on 01955 606 950 or katrina.macnab@btconnect.com.

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Employability for All category:  
**highly commended**

**The Engine Shed**

**What is the aim of the main project?**

The Engine Shed is a training programme for people with learning disabilities. The goal is to help service users to improve their confidence, learn transferable skills in a real work environment and, ultimately, to progress into paid employment.

**Where is it taking place?**

The project operates city-wide in Edinburgh.

**What has been achieved?**

Upon establishment in 1989, The Engine Shed rejected the then popular approach of delivering employability training for the target group in segregated day centres. Instead, it was committed in making use of public environments to break down confidence barriers.

The Engine Shed currently offers a three year training programme that is integrated within its several sustainable businesses, including a popular vegetarian café, a bakery and a conference/meeting service. It starts working with potential trainees while they are still at school, and additionally offers work experience placements with local businesses in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

**Who is running it?**

The Engine Shed is a registered charity that receives lottery funding and works in close partnership with local employers as well as the City of Edinburgh Council, the NHS, the Whole Food Network, the Scottish Union for Supported Employment, and schools and colleges throughout the city.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**

The judges were most impressed by the strong and sustained commitment from the staff and trainees. As evidenced by the strong work ethic in the café, the bakery and the tofu manufacturing unit, it was clear that the trainees responded enthusiastically to the opportunities and experiences provided.

The judges particularly valued the training programme, which is very well planned and effectively engages the trainees in the progressive acquisition of employability skills as well as personal and social skills. The Engine Shed was seen as being characterised by purposeful, productive and enjoyable activity, and strongly deserving of the highly commended SURF Award certificate.

**Where can I find out more?**

Please visit www.theengineshed.org or contact Marian MacDonald, Engine Shed Chief Executive, on 0131 662 0040.
People category: shortlisted

**Arden Chill Out**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
The Arden Chill Out was set up in 2006 with the objective of providing a variety of activities and services for young people in a deprived city community.

**Where is it taking place?**
In the Arden neighbourhood in south-west Glasgow.

**What has been achieved?**
From small beginnings, with a youth club run in a portakabin one night a week, the Chill Out project now provides a well-used community facility that typically serves up to 40 local youths each evening. Among the activities provided are music projects, art classes, local excursions, mother & baby groups, and clubs for football, swimming and cycling. The project has given local youths a meaningful opportunity to participate in their community, develop self-confidence, and achieve learning outcomes outwith formal education.

**Who is running it?**
Arden Chill Out was originally established and run by Glen Oaks Housing Association with funding assistance from The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, the Scottish Government’s Wider Role Fund and charitable donations. It has since become an independent organisation managed by a board of community volunteers.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
The judges were tremendously impressed by the energy demonstrated by the project volunteers. Having realised that there was very little for young people in the local area to do, they worked tirelessly to develop the project with support from the local housing association. Arden Chill Out is a model example of showing the positive difference that local people can make in their own community. The judges were also pleased to see that some former service users contribute to the project as youth workers.

**Where can I find out more?**
Please contact Arden Chill Out Chairperson Shirley Duguid on 0141 638 7344 or email ardenchillout@hotmail.co.uk.

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**Campbeltown Community Organic Garden**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
Campbeltown Community Organic Garden (CCOG) is a garden and wildlife area that aims to improve the local environment and offer social, recreational and volunteering opportunities.

**Where is it taking place?**
The garden is based just north-east of Campbeltown in Argyll.

**What has been achieved?**
CCOG started out in 2000 to develop a neglected walled garden near a local nursing home. It has since evolved into a popular organic garden and wildlife area that now covers three acres. Features include a nature walk, children’s play area, raised vegetable beds, a resource centre with kitchen facilities, and a pond.

**The site offers educational facility for local schools and the organic produce is either sold at local markets or donated freely to elderly and disabled people in Campbeltown and nearby villages. The CCOG volunteers received the 2011 Argyll & Bute Community Project of the Year Award.**

**Who is running it?**
The garden is maintained by unpaid volunteers who are supported by partners including Fyne Homes, Scottish Natural Heritage and local businesses and schools.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
The most striking thing about the project for the judges is the way in which it involves so many different parts of the local community. From providing a play area for pre-school kids to arranging a delivery service of fresh, healthy meals to a NHS day centre for elderly people, the garden provides opportunities and services that offer value to local people in all age brackets.

**Where can I find out more?**
Please visit www.ccg.org.uk or contact CCOG Committee Member Steve Byrne on 01586 552 949 or email stevecampbeltown@hotmail.com.

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**Little Assynt Estate**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
Culag Community Woodland Trust was set up to manage and promote a local woodland and the 3000 acre Little Assynt Estate for the benefit of local communities.

**Where is it taking place?**
Little Assynt Estate is located near the village of Lochinver in Sutherland, on the north-west coast of mainland Scotland.

**What has been achieved?**
Culag Community Woodland Trust, which had been successfully managing Culag Wood since 1995, purchased Little Assynt Estate in 2000 with the goal of providing opportunities for employability, environmental education, tourism, enterprise and conservation.

Following the completion of a 30 month development project in May 2011, 4km of local paths had been created using a trading arm that employs and trains local people in path building and related skills. Little Assynt Estate now opens up a beautiful natural landscape that provides a myriad of benefits for local people and visitors alike.

**Who is running it?**
The Trust is run by twelve directors drawn from the local community. Project funding has come from, among others, The Highland Council, the European Regional Development Fund, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Caithness & Sutherland Enterprise.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
It was clear that the Trust demonstrated an innovative approach to community development by making excellent use of available funding to develop local skills, create employment opportunities and improve access to the estate. The judges were particularly impressed by the local ownership of the initiative and by the creativity of project design.

**Where can I find out more?**
Please visit www.culagwoods.org.uk or contact Project Officer Fiona Saywell on 01571 844 368 or fiona@culagwoods.org.uk.


**Place Category: shortlisted**

**Redlees Quarry**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
To transform a derelict former clay quarry site into an attractive green space for local residents to enjoy.

**Where is it taking place?**
The Redlees Quarry site covers 27 acres on the outskirts of Blantyre in South Lanarkshire.

**What has been achieved?**
The quarry regeneration began in 2007, when a series of community consultations to consider the potential development of the site was facilitated by local charity Community Links. The demand for an urban fringe park was clear. Funding was obtained for development work that resulted in considerably physical improvements to the landscape, which includes ponds and woodland, and the creation of footpaths and transport links.

The area is now popular with local residents, who use it for walking, mountain biking and horse riding. It has also proved successful in attracting wildlife such as herons and otters back to the site.

**Who is running it?**
The project is managed by Community Links, with support from South Lanarkshire Council and a ‘Friend of Redlees Quarry’ community group. It received £300K in funding from the Scottish Government’s Vacant and Derelict Land fund and, more recently, £110K from the Forestry Commission.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
From a neglected wasteland, the community of Blantyre has facilitated the creation of a peaceful, well-used and respected community space. The judges recognised the robust partnership approach that provides a sound basis for future expansion of community use. The space created provides an important local asset, providing community member with health outcomes and access to local heritage and green space areas.

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**Partnership Category: shortlisted**

**Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (ROAR) originated in 2007 in response to research indicating a need for greater provision of local services for older adults.

**Where is it taking place?**
The project office is in Paisley and services are provided to residents throughout the Renfrewshire local government region.

**What has been achieved?**
ROAR’s model of operation has proved successful in increasing service users’ level of independence and improving their physical and mental wellbeing. Services provided include one-to-one befriending, eight ROAR clubs encouraging healthy & active living, transport provision to medical appointments and days out, ‘Blether Together’ social meetings, and specialist support for those suffering from dementia.

From 2010-11, the project delivered more than 130 health and wellbeing or social activity sessions, registered over 200 ROAR club users, and featured the input of 120 volunteers.

**Who is running it?**
As one of the Scottish Government’s Public Service Partnership pilot programmes, ROAR comprises a consortium of local voluntary sector service delivery organisations that work in partnership with Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
For the panel, ROAR presented an excellent example of cooperation between local authority, health, and voluntary sector partners. The life-enhancing project takes a holistic, personal approach to addressing the needs and aspirations of older people in Renfrewshire, developing efficient solutions tailored to each individual.

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**Partnership Category: shortlisted**

**Creating Safer Communities**

**What is the aim of the main project?**
Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) seconded 15 police officers to work directly with GHA front-line staff to address anti-social behaviour and improve community safety.

**Where is it taking place?**
The initiative, which started in late 2010, originally covered the Tollcross area of east Glasgow and was later extended to the Gallowgate, Parkhead and Calton neighbourhoods.

**What has been achieved?**
Working with GHA’s Neighbour Relations Team, the police officers deal with complaints and concerns raised by local tenants. They tackle problems from public drinking and vandalism to drug abuse and domestic violence, over and above regular local police activity.

The number of houses classed ‘problem homes’ was reduced from 67 to 7 after visits from the project team and significant rises in tenancy sustainment and acceptance rates from new tenants in Tollcross were evident after the first six months.

**Who is running it?**
GHA, which has full operational control of the officers seconded from Strathclyde Police.

**Why did the judging panel like it?**
The judges were impressed at the number of effective outcomes achieved from this joint working initiative between GHA and Strathclyde Police. The officers work with housing staff to identify community concerns and produce strategic, sustainable solutions to target anti-social behaviour and to build public confidence, which has clearly helped engender a real sense of pride and ownership in the local communities.

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**Where can I find out more?**
Please contact Morag Pinion, Project Manager at Community Links, on 01698 827 583 or email morag@communitylinkssl.co.uk.
Employability for All Category: shortlisted

North Lanarkshire Project Search

What is the aim of the main project?
To replicate a successful USA initiative that has an excellent track record in providing training to people with a learning disability that wish to enter formal employment.

Where is it taking place?
The service is delivered from Wishaw General Hospital to clients from North Lanarkshire.

What has been achieved?
Project Search, a one-year training course established in Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in 1996, was brought to North Lanarkshire in 1999. Since then, over 200 jobs have been found for service users. In 2010/11, 7 of the 8 participants who commenced the programme secured paid employment following completion.

The initiative now supports 133 individuals in employment, who work an average of 24 hours per week. It was recognised as a model of best practice by the UK Government in its 2009 ‘Valuing Employment Now’ paper.

Who is running it?
The project is operated by North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire in collaboration with a wide range of partners, including Serco, Motherwell College, the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability, and local employers.

Why did the judging panel like it?
The judges were impressed with the project’s near-100% employment rate. The young people involved all benefited from having an on-site college tutor to tailor learning for to the individual needs. The panel noted that this was the first Project Search site in Scotland to get off the ground, and thought that basing the student classroom in a local hospital was highly innovative.

Employability for All Category: shortlisted

Moving On (Stranraer)

What is the aim of the main project?
To offer support to adults excluded from mainstream education or training because of a criminal record, lack of qualifications, learning difficulties, health problems, low self-esteem or substance dependency transitions.

Where is it taking place?
Project services are provided to those aged 16 and upwards in the town of Stranrear in south-west Scotland.

What has been achieved?
Moving On provides a wide range of employability skills to clients through access to training in IT skills, CV production, interview techniques, social development, and teamwork.

The number of service users was 376 in 2009/10 – well in excess of the referral target of 300. Of the 200 that completed the programme in that year, 82 applied for jobs, 38 secured employment, 14 entered further education and 17 undertook voluntary work.

Who is running it?
The initiative has been developed and managed by national charity Apex Scotland. Partner agencies include Dumfries & Galloway Council, JobCentre Plus, and Dumfries & Galloway NHS Board.

Why did the judging panel like it?
The judges were impressed by the person-centred approach, which resulted in a flexible and diverse range of activities, such as making packs of household utensils to assist homeless people when they obtained their first tenancy. They also observed a high level of community engagement and innovative partnership working arrangements with local churches.

Where can I find out more?
Please contact Apex Scotland Unit Manager Vikki Binnie on 01776 700 973 or email vikki.binnie@apexscotland.org.uk.

Employability for All Category: shortlisted

Moving On (Shetland)

What is the aim of the main project?
To provide an effective employability support service for adults in a remote location with health problems, physical and learning disabilities, and other barriers into work.

Where is it taking place?
The project is open to those aged over 16 and is delivered across all areas in Shetland, which is over 100 miles north of the Scottish mainland and comprises over 100 islands.

What has been achieved?
The initiative was founded in 1997. In 2006, an innovative job crew scheme, which utilises a team of clients and support workers that work together on small community projects, was piloted to great success.

To date, the job crew has supported 90 people, 82% of which have successfully reached a position where they can take up training and employment opportunities. 82% of clients have reported that they feel more part of the community since participating, with 87% and 89% identifying improvements in their social and practical skills respectively.

Who is running it?
Moving On Employment Project Ltd is a registered charity based in Shetland capital Lerwick. Partners include local employers, GP surgeries and schools, as well as Shetland Islands Council, Skills Development Scotland, Shetland College, and JobCentre Plus, among others.

Why did the judging panel like it?
The judges commended the efforts of the Moving On project staff and the imagination used to support both service users and the rural island communities through such income-generating services as grass cutting, path building, and developing community gardens. The panel also welcomed the effective use of annual events that result in employers proactively contacting Moving On to offer opportunities for work placements.

Where can I find out more?
Please visit www.moep.co.uk or contact Project Coordinator Kellie Naulls on 01595 743 296 or email kellie.naulls@shetland.org.

Where can I find out more?
Please contact Maureen Cook, Supported Employment Service Manager at North Lanarkshire Council, on 01698 274 491 or cookm@northlan.gov.uk.
Each December, some of the best regeneration projects in the country get a SURF Awards ‘No’.

We asked each of last year’s award-winning projects to give us an update on their year in the life of a SURF Award winner.

The 2010 Award Winner in the People category was Rag Tag ‘N’ Textile. Here is their update on a year in the life of a SURF Award winner.

Rag Tag ‘N’ Textile were delighted to be winners of a SURF award in 2010. As a direct result of the award we were invited to attend a conference as part of the Assets Alliance, something which we believe helped raise the profile of Rag Tag with our local authority and with NHS Highland. We now have a contract with the Highland Council to deliver training to younger vulnerable adults and were also successful in gaining funding to deliver employability training.

The local community was also delighted and very supportive and we had a number of people popping in to see the award itself, which we still have proudly displayed in the Balmacara workshop.

Because of the community interest we think that winning the award helped us have a successful season with our new retail development. We had no money with which to publicise the opening but we believe that because of the positive reaction to Rag Tag’s achievement, people came along to see the shop and then continued to visit and ‘spread the word’ enabling us to generate enough income to be able to advertise more widely during the tourist season.

The shop has become very much a community focus in Balmacara and we are now working with other local organisations in order to promote the square more widely, thereby offering display opportunities to local craftspeople and producers. The shop and our new website will offer more opportunities to reduce stigma and offer vulnerable adults good opportunities to regain confidence, learn new skills and make new friends. Whilst we can’t definitely say we wouldn’t have managed to do these things if we hadn’t won the award we can’t help but believe that it was highly influential and we still have our poster prominently displayed in our new changing room, providing lots of high-quality reading material for visitors!

For more information, contact Cindie Reiter, Manager, Rag Tag ‘N’ Textile, on 01599 566 793 or cindie@ragtagntextile.org.uk.

The 2010 Award Winner in the Place category was Uig Community Shop. Here is their update on a year in the life of a SURF Award winner.

2011 has been a particularly busy and productive year for Uig Community Shop. Since winning the SURF Award for 2010, we have completed our renewables project, installed video conferencing facilities, and raised awareness of the shop’s services to wider parts of Lewis through an effective leafleting campaign.

In partnership with the Western Isles Council, we held a ‘Have Your Say’ night and organised a local survey to consult with the community on potential shop developments. We were able to respond to demand to make available a range of additional services, including a plasma screen to advertise local business and tourism opportunities, a coin-operated car wash and an ice-cream dispenser.

The SURF Award definitely helped to raise the project’s credibility and profile. We cited the award in our successful application for funding from the EU/Scottish Government LEADER Innse Gall rural development programme. We received £18K, which went towards developing a new website that offers online ordering and improvements in bilingual internal and external signage. We were also pleased to this year be included in an extended feature on community shops on BBC Alba, and to be invited to discuss our project at a Big Lottery/SURF event on Growing Community Assets in spring 2011.

The SURF Award additionally contributed to our being selected as Scotland’s representative in a ‘Northern Periphery Programme’ cross-university project that highlights sustainable approaches to rural retail in northern Europe. We were recently invited to attend the dissemination conference in Iceland, and we were pleased to fly the flag for community ownership among the private enterprises that were chosen for the other participating nations.

We hope this year’s winners go on to have a similar positive experience in being able to use the SURF Award to build on their success.

For more information, contact Elaine Newington, Manager, Uig Community Shop, on 01851 672 444 or uigcommunityshop@gmail.com.
deserved boost by receiving a SURF Award; but what happens after that? their progress since their success in 2010. Here are their stories.

The 2010 Award Winner in the Partnership category was the Eday Partnership. Here is their update on a year in the life of a SURF Award winner.

It was the first time, in seven years of existence, that Eday Partnership had entered for an award or, indeed, any type of recognition outside of our small island and we were delighted to have been selected as the winner. All the projects nominated were of the highest quality and it was a strange dichotomy to be there as the winner yet humbled by the achievements of the other nominations! It was a year and an award to remember.

As with all places and partnerships things change and develop and since winning the Partnership category we have become a registered charity and continued to focus on the purchase and installation of a 900kW community owned wind turbine. If all continues to go well it should be installed in 2012 and then we, as a small community will have an independent income to help sustain our future.

A further celebration, and evidence of SURF’s ability to draw out achievement from all corners, is that we are a part of the winning group this year – Community Power Orkney - a winning Partnership within a partnership winner!!

For more information, contact Kate Townsend, Community Development Officer, Eday Partnership on 07917 523 582 or kate@edaypartnership.org.

The 2010 Health and Employability Partnership category winner was An Integrated Approach. Here is their update.

Stirling Council and Stirling Community Health Partnership were delighted to be the first ever recipients of the SURF Award in the new category Health and Employability Partnership.

The project was the result of partnership working, which began back in 2007 and has been integrated into the local Community Planning Partnership. Both lead partners have stated the importance of the support they have received locally as key to the project’s success.

At the time of the awards in 2010, the project was receiving funding through the Community Planning Partnership Fairer Scotland Fund.

The partners believe the award was a good endorsement of the work being done and gave the project added credibility at a time when difficult decisions were being made regarding local funding. As a result, since April 2011, when Fairer Scotland funding came to an end, the project activity has been able to continue through mainstream funding from the Council and NHS Forth Valley.

The project is continuing to develop and now forms part of a developing employability pipeline, being supported through the European Structural Funds Priority 5 and other developments through its key role with the local Keep Well initiative.

For more information, contact Neil Boyd Employability Service Team Leader, Stirling Council, 01786 432072 or boydn@stirling.gov.uk.
“Successful regeneration relies on the passion and commitment of a whole range of partners, working tirelessly to make a difference to the people and places that need it most. Awards such as these play an important part in recognising achievements across the country.

I am delighted to be supporting the SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration. And I wish to congratulate, not only the winners, but all those that have taken part.”

Achieving a sustainable future

The Scottish Government’s regeneration vision is a Scotland where our most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being. I know that our partners across all sectors are passionately committed to the principles of regeneration and share this vision.

I’m clear about the contribution regeneration makes to growing Scotland’s economy, creating jobs and prosperity and improving the life chances of Scotland’s people.

That is why I will shortly be publishing a Regeneration Strategy. In February, I launched Building a Sustainable Future, which outlined the key challenges and opportunities for regeneration in Scotland. This was the starting point for a wider debate about future regeneration policy. From this, the following priorities were identified as being vital to successful regeneration:

• tackling area-based deprivation by reforming how mainstream resources are used and working together more effectively;
• a stronger focus on community-led regeneration as a way of delivering the change that local people want to see; and
• a commitment to ensuring that the right type of funding and other support is in place at national and local level to support Scotland’s communities to flourish.

Our Regeneration Strategy will re-energise our regeneration policy and focus on these priorities to deliver our regeneration vision.

To find out more, visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/regeneration

As Scotland’s independent regeneration network, SURF’s overall objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Scotland’s disadvantaged communities.

SURF aims to be the primary arena for debate on community regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its extensive membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, international policy exchanges, annual awards for best practice and the distribution of the regeneration policy journal, Scotregen.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge, with which to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice.

SURF was established in 1992 as a not-for-profit social enterprise. It is directed by a board of voluntary directors drawn from its extensive membership.

Over 400 people participated in SURF events in 2011 to date.

SURF members range in size from small community groups to large private companies and also include: local authorities, housing associations, health boards, academic institutions, professional bodies, voluntary organisations and charities.

Further information on SURF’s activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website: www.scotregen.co.uk.
“With public spending cuts allied to increasing poverty, 2011 has been one of the most challenging years in recent times for delivering effective regeneration efforts.

As the 2011 SURF Awards show, however, there is a great deal of resilience shown by communities and regeneration players to deliver innovative solutions as part of robust, holistic partnerships.

The challenge is to sustain and build on such accomplishments.”

SURF Award Judging Panel

The independent judging panel for the 2011 SURF Awards comprised 11 representatives of key regeneration organisations and five voluntary community representatives. Each judge gave their time freely to review, select, visit and decide between 60 project applications. SURF is very grateful to them and their organisations for their essential and much appreciated contribution.

The 2011 SURF Awards judging panel comprised the following members:

**People category**
- Emilie Devlin (Community Volunteer)
- Fiona Garven (Scottish Community Development Centre)
- Claire Hannah (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)
- Douglas McCreath (Community Volunteer)

**Place category**
- Jack Ferguson (Community Volunteer)
- Diane Gray (Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland)
- Diarmaid Lawlor (Architecture + Design Scotland)
- David Stewart (Scottish Federation of Housing Associations)

**Partnership category**
- Von Jackson (Community Volunteer)
- Andrew Leitch (Creative Scotland)
- Murdo MacPherson (Scottish Government)
- Giles Ruck (Scottish Community Foundation)

**Employability for All category**
- John Cassidy (Community Volunteer)
- Michelle Gibson (Scottish Government)
- Michael Kennedy (Scottish Government)
- Emma Lyon (NHS Health Scotland)

SURF Award Entries in 2011

60 community regeneration initiatives were put forward for a SURF Award this year, representing a wide geographic and cross-sector spread.

As the following charts indicate, a great deal of diversity was also evident in the scale, scope and intended beneficiaries of the nominated projects.
SURF is grateful to the Scottish Government, which funds the SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

Members and Sponsors
SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 250 member organisations, and in particular from its 11 sponsoring members. Their backing provides the political, administrative and financial independence that helps SURF play a unique role in linking policy and practice across all of the sectors concerned with regenerating Scotland’s communities.