



## First and foremost...

Welcome to the Gorebridge Community Development Trust August 2023 Newsletter. August, already? Where are the months going?

We hope by the time you read this Summer hasn't passed us by completely and we can still look forward to a few more sunny days.

If you would like to get involved in the work of the Development Trust, all the details are on the last page.

Warmest,  
 All at Gorebridge Community Development Trust

## New! The Gorebridge Community Pantry

The Gorebridge Community Pantry is open every Tuesday evening at the Gorebridge Beacon 5 – 7PM.

Open to residents of EH23, you can apply to become a member of the Pantry and shop once a week. Membership is free, and a weekly shop costs £3.50. You'll receive 10 credits for £3.50, and these credits can be used to 'spend' on fresh, ambient or store-cupboard ingredients. If available, free bread will be offered, and volunteers will make each member a bag of fresh fruit and vegies.



If you would like to become a member you can sign up at the Pantry evening, or pop into the Beacon and ask a staff member for a form. Please bring proof of address (EH23 residents only).

The Pantry is for anyone who wants to reduce their weekly bill, help save good food going to waste, and wants to support community projects that build resilience.

***"The Pantry has allowed me to top up my shop in a dignified way, it doesn't feel like a handout, it feels like a hand up" Pantry Member***



## We are hiring

### Finance Officer

Working 14 hours a week we are looking for a Finance Officer to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the finance function in the charity.

You will:

Support the GCDT board in maintaining and developing the Trust and Beacon Operations using the appropriate accounting software and associated applications.

Assist the GCDT Board and management team in ensuring the charity remains compliant with all statutory financial regulations that apply to it and any subsidiaries.

Assist with driving forward the modernisation and digitalisation of the financial management systems. Go to:

<https://gorebridge.org.uk/vacancies/>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFO FOR MORE UPDATES/EVENT INFO



## Gorebridge Community Action Plan

For the past year there have been meetings, mapping exercises, and community get togethers to create the new Gorebridge Community Action Plan. This work was led by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, and brought together different Gorebridge groups and residents to prioritise local needs, wants and wishes.

Very soon the plan will be created, and be available to all. Watch this space.

## Handy People

Part of the Development Trust Strategy is to support community wellbeing and connections.

We are currently exploring a new project called Handy People. To be honest, the project development was halted by the pandemic and all the restrictions. However, these are now behind us and we want to revisit the idea.

Handy people has a dual purpose. Firstly, it will bring people together to share skills and experience providing training and employability opportunities for local people. The second function is provide services that support residents in their homes. This might make the difference to allow people to stay in their own homes longer. Equally, it could help other groups to make a home when they are starting out. The services might seem simple or small, but sometimes these small tasks can feel huge if you don't have the skills or abilities to perform them yourself. Simple help, that makes a big difference. One hour of time can create a massive difference. A neighbourly project that helps to build a caring and resilient community.

More details next month.



## Gorebridge Community Gardeners

The Community Gardeners recently held a Garden Party for the unveiling of The Queen's Green Canopy, Platinum Jubilee Tree.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a nationwide tree-planting initiative launched by Her late Majesty to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

The 'Tree of Trees' stood in front of Buckingham Palace at the height of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in London in June 22 and was seen on TV by more than one billion people worldwide. The tree has been planted beside the Memorial Garden at the Beacon.



## Hunter Square

Last summer the Community Gardeners adopted Hunter Square at the top of the Main Street. As well as keeping the Beacon Garden looking great the Square will also be flowering for years to come. If you would like to join the Community Gardeners please get in touch on 01875 816320.



## Cost-of-Living Emergency

Gorebridge Community Development Trust received an award from The National Lottery Community Fund, made possible by National Lottery players. Receiving £27,500 the Trust acted as an anchor organisation, to distribute funds to support people with the cost of living crisis.

Working in partnership, the Trust was able to support 250 households and over 500 local people between Jan and April 2023. Val Cameron, GCDT Chair said 'We know the cost of living emergency is not over yet, half way through 2023 many people are struggling, we will continually look for funding streams to support our community during this time and into the Winter of 2023/24'

[www.gorebridge.org.uk](http://www.gorebridge.org.uk)



## Gorebridge Walkers

Gorebridge Walkers meet fortnightly on Friday mornings. The walks are usually about 5 miles long, monthly longer walks are also programmed at weekends.

Information is posted on the groups Facebook page (<https://bit.ly/gorebridgewalkers>). If you would like to walk with us, please visit Facebook and join the group or email [gorebridgewalkers@gmail.com](mailto:gorebridgewalkers@gmail.com)

Alternatively please call the Beacon on 01875 816320 for more information.



### August/Sept Events

Every Tuesday Evening 5 - 7PM  
- Gorebridge Community Pantry

Tuesday 6.30 - 8.30 & Sunday  
2.30 - 4.30 Garden Sessions

BINGO Night, Friday 15th  
September 7 - 10.30PM

Family Picnics, every Friday in  
August 12:30 - 2:30

For what's on please visit:  
<https://gorebridge.org.uk/upcomingevents/>

### Past Event Photos

Did you get snapped at our last event? Check out the photos below and also our social media to see if you were snapped!



### Beacon Blether....

Hi, and welcome to The Beacon. Firstly let me introduce myself – I'm Debbie (Gorebridge incomer of 20 years) and Beacon Operations Manager. I have been in post for a little over a year and have really enjoyed working alongside our wonderful Beaconeers. John is our Facilities Manager who looks after the building. In the Café we have our Community Café Lead and chef Robert, who oversees the operations of the Community Café. Robert is also responsible for training Shona and Emily our Café Trainees. Nicola and Jemma complete the Community Café team that is at the heart of what we do.

Many of you access the community café regularly, but do you know about the other areas of activity at the Beacon community hub and social enterprise? The Beacon has several office spaces and a nursery let to SME's, charities and non-profit organisations. We also have a large airy hall let to both regular and occasional users for classes, parties, meetings and conferences. A particular highlight this year was hosting the SWI Midlothian Federation's show and welcoming over 500 people from Midlothian and beyond. We also hold our own events including regular Saturday morning play cafes and evening events that bring our community together.

We sincerely welcome everyone from our community, all staff are trained in Dementia awareness and we are working towards Communication Scotland accreditation. We are proud to be a Disability Aware, Real Living Wage employer, that supports the Young Person's Guarantee and Parental Employability Project.

### Your Community Hub

As well as using the Community Café, the Beacon is available at weekends and evenings (limited) for you to use for parties, children's parties events, activities and workshops for residents, businesses and other groups.

This is your community hub. What would you like to see happen at Beacon? What type of activities, events, community events, fundraisers? Please do let us know, we can't create without your input. Get in touch with me, my email is [debbie@gorebridge.org.uk](mailto:debbie@gorebridge.org.uk)



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And finally...

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## You've read what we have been up to lately

To keep on going we need your help

Although we're a registered charity, we're like any other business, struggling with rising costs and trying our best to reduce our outgoings in these difficult times. A loan has to be paid off (The Beacon would not have been able to open without it). We've managed to keep going through all the hardships of the pandemic, serving the community with the hot food deliveries from our kitchen. The Beacon has been your community café through all the covid restrictions and beyond, a warm space last winter when heating costs were so high.

You've read about the Cost-of-Living project and the new Gorebridge Community Pantry, which - amongst other reasons - is helping reduce food costs. The community garden is proving a little sanctuary as well as a safe play space, and the community gardeners are trying very hard to make Gorebridge a more beautiful place.

**All of these require volunteers.**

### Why Volunteer?

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Recent Volunteer Social at the Beacon

## It means something different to each of us

Do you have a spare hour or two a week?

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons. For some it's social and a great way to make new friends, for others it's about doing something good for the community, whereas some people may wish to upskill or share a skill. It's always personal.

*"I get satisfaction from seeing progress and from helping the community. It always makes me smile when people say nice things."* Ellie, Volunteer Trustee, Gardener and Pantry Helper

*"I get a sense of community I never had living in cities."* Rob, Volunteer Gardener and Cafe Assistant

*"I like to help other people."* Tony, Volunteer Gardener and Pantry Helper

We need you, our community, to help us by:

- Keep using the community café - a warm and welcoming social space to meet and eat
- Using the Beacon for parties, room hire, special events.
- Offering your skills - accounting, HR, risk, governance, 3rd sector experience, communication, creative work and fundraising - by joining our board of trustees
- Volunteering a few hours a week to help in many ways – gardening, admin, pantry, café workers, drivers

### Ready to Help?

Become a member. Visit:

<https://gorebridge.org.uk/become-a-member/>

Contact Debbie to find out about volunteering in the Beacon: 07563 232906

Contact Dawn to find out about volunteering in the Trust community projects: 07895 225245