

BEAR
S C O T L A N D

BEAR Cares



**COMMUNITY & CHARITY
REPORT 2024**

BEAR Cares



COMMUNITY & CHARITY REPORT 2024

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In the last five years BEAR Scotland has donated over £190k to good causes within the communities we serve. In addition we've provided support 'in-kind', ranging from erecting Christmas lights and Gala day bunting to donating used road signs and home-made benches to nurseries.

In 2024 a total of **£50,539** has been donated to charities and community groups around North West and South East Scotland. Over 80 organisations, including charities, community initiatives and schools, have benefited from BEAR Scotland's commitment to delivering community benefits. This report provides an overview of what's been delivered in 2024.



BEAR'S FIVE-PILLAR CSR APPROACH



BEAR Scotland's Corporate Social Responsibility programme is designed to deliver a positive social footprint within the communities in which we operate.

The annual charity corporate budget is £20K. It is intended that we build on the corporate commitment with employee engagement and fundraising.

BEAR focuses on charities and projects around Scotland that align with BEAR Scotland's values.

Employee buy-in and engagement in the CSR programme is also a key driver. This embeds within the workforce the core corporate value that we work in partnership with the communities we serve.

1

Ongoing, long-term charity partnerships

Honours the commitment to charity organisations made within BEAR's NMC quality submissions to Transport Scotland.

2

Annual national charity partner

An all-staff vote helps identify the annual charity partner to help engender engagement in year-long fundraising initiatives.

3

Regional / local charity programme

Employees invited to nominate local cause to donate £750 to. Eight charities benefit. Three in SE, Three in NW and one each for the DBFOs.

4

Supporting employee fundraising challenges

We are proud to support the efforts of BEAR team members who take on personal fundraising challenges by giving them a significant donation.

5

Support for community and STEM initiatives

We consider funding requests from local clubs and sports organisations. We undertake a lot of STEM engagement with schools. Additionally, we encourage new talent into the sector.

BEAR CARES DASHBOARD



£50,539

donated to good
causes in 2024

3

major fundraising
events hosted in
2024

31

charities supported
across Scotland

8

regional Charities
received £750 each

£20,093

of corporate
donations

39

community groups
and clubs
supported

786

volunteer hours of
CSR logged

£5,158

employee
fundraising

11.5K

school pupils from
across Scotland
engaged with STEM
programme

ONGOING LONG-TERM CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS



Our ongoing charity partners are organisations we committed to supporting on an ongoing basis within our NMC quality submissions to Transport Scotland.

We're committed to donating at least £10k to Cash for Kids every year.

In addition, we hold a staff charity football tournament in aid of SAMH every year.

My Name's Doddie is a cause close to many in the business, and annually many employees take part in Doddie Aid.

RB LI is also an ongoing charity partner. We support the armed forces community in various ways.





**£25K
Raised**

BEAR Scotland raised £25,024.46 for Cash for Kids in its fourth annual Charity Golf Day at the Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club near Edinburgh thanks to the generous support from a number of key suppliers and subcontractors who got involved.

The 4-ball shotgun tournament got underway on the country club's West Course, with 76 players competing for individual and team prizes. The golfers then enjoyed a meal, raffle and charity auction hosted by Bauer Media presenter and DJ Gavin Pearson.

There were fantastic prizes up for grabs including golfing equipment, luxury hotel stays, rounds of golf at some of the best courses in the country and a variety of the latest Apple products.

Iain Murray, BEAR Scotland's Managing Director said: "It was another successful Golf Day at the Dalmahoy and even the weather couldn't dampen our spirits.

Cash for Kids improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people living in the communities in which BEAR Scotland operates so we're delighted to have raised such a fantastic sum for this worthy cause, bringing our total raised to over £73K in the last four years.

The support we received from our suppliers and subcontractors was fundamental in raising the incredible amount that we did."

Emma Kemp, Scotland East Regional Director for Cash for Kids said: "At Cash for Kids, we support thousands of children in our local communities aged 0-18 years who are suffering from poverty, life-limiting illness and also those who have additional support needs.

Without the support of companies like BEAR Scotland, we wouldn't be able to help nearly as many."



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SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY

DALMAHOY
HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB
EDINBURGH



Ongoing, long-term charity partnerships

SAMH

Scottish Action for Mental Health

£1,382
Raised



Football Tournament

The 12th BEAR Scotland five-a-side charity football tournament took place in April 2024 in aid of SAMH.

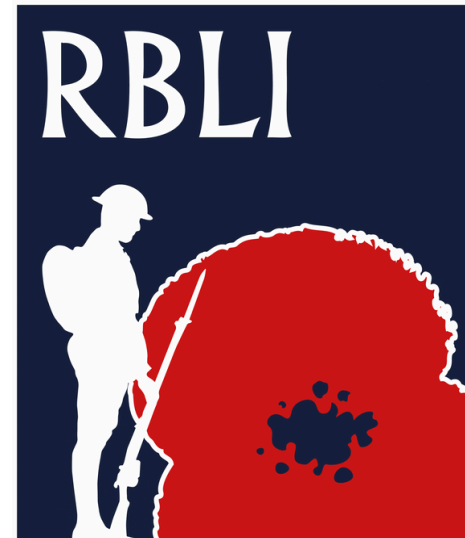
A fantastic £691 came from team entry fees and the remainder was match funded by BEAR Scotland.

Supporting Veterans

BEAR is a member of the RBLI Tommy Club which supports veterans and Gold member of the Armed Forces Covenant. We also work in partnership with Armed Forces Recovery Centres and the Careers Transition Partnership to encourage new recruits from the forces.

We continue to work closely with Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Company.

£500 was donated to the Scotland and Northern Ireland Personnel Recovery Centre in support of their Spring Ball. Additionally, £157 was donated to RBLI in December.



MY NAME'S DODDIE foundation

£1,572
Raised



Fourteen BEAR employees took part in Doddie Aid 2024. The challenge started on 1 January and ended on 3 February. Combined, they covered 3,678 miles and raised £1,572 for the MND charity, My Name's Doddie Foundation.

CHARITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2024

A BEAR all-staff vote helps identify the annual charity partner to help engender engagement in year-long fundraising initiatives. Macmillan Cancer Support was chosen as the national charity partner for 2024.



**£5,852
Raised**

In aid of
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Forth Road Bridge Doors Open Day

**£1,848
Raised**

The 2024 Forth Road Bridge Doors Open Day took place on Saturday 28 September. Transport Scotland's Contact and Education Centre was open to the public and everyone who attended had the chance to enter a charity prize draw to win a trip for two to the top of the Queensferry Crossing. All funds raised were donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.



Macmillan Coffee Mornings



Throughout the year the engagement team organised coffee mornings at various offices and depots across the North West and South East with staff whipping up some delicious treats!



Macmillan Cancer Support Webinar

Macmillan exists to do whatever it takes to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can.

In July, Matt Smith, Fundraising Manager at Macmillan, shared with BEAR employees an overview of the services the charity provides and how our fundraising helps.



**Annual Staff
Christmas
Raffle Raised
£900**



**BEAR Scotland, thank you for helping us be there
for people with cancer**

Thank you for raising an amazing £900 through your raffle.
Here are just some examples of the difference your support could have made...

Paid for a Macmillan Nurse for 3 days, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.



Helped run our Online Community forum for 1 day, providing approximately 1,740 people with a space to give emotional and practical support to each other on anything to do with cancer.

We are so grateful for your support.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

**Christmas
Jumper Day
Raised
£460**

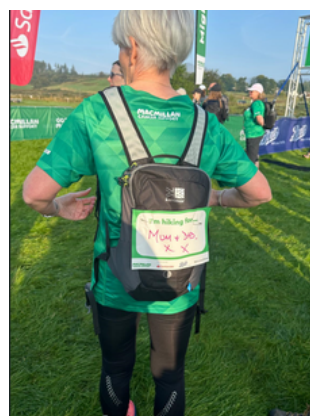


The final fundraiser of the year to raise more funds for Macmillan was linked to Christmas Jumper Day. Staff were asked to wear their festive jumpers to work and donate £5. A total of £460 was raised through staff donations and a corporate donation from BEAR Scotland.

Duo Take on Macmillan's Mighty Hike

**£1,770
Raised**

Angie McKiddie (North West Incident Liaison Officer) and Hazel Moore (North West Network Manager) took part in this year's Rob Roy Mighty Hike on 31 August, raising an incredible £1,770 for those living with cancer, including a £500 donation from BEAR. The Mighty Hike is a marathon 25.2-mile trek through the Trossachs in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, nominated by staff as BEAR Scotland's charity of the year for 2024. Hazel said: "We did it... 61.3km! Thank you to all who kindly supported us with messages along the way, and who have donated to the amazing cause that is Macmillan Cancer Support."



FORTH ROAD BRIDGE 60TH



BEAR Scotland worked with Transport Scotland and the rest of the Forth Bridges Forum to devise a series of events to mark the 60th anniversary of the Forth Road Bridge on 4 September 2024.

BEAR worked with the Dunfermline Press and the Edinburgh Evening News to offer readers the chance to be one of 60 members of the public to scale one of the iconic structure's towers on the anniversary itself.

Two talented BEAR bagpipers serenaded the famous bridge from the top of its 156-metre main tower. 'Scotland the Brave' rang out across the Forth as bridge workers celebrated one of Scotland's greatest engineering achievements.



Children from the local primary schools, Queensferry PS and North Queensferry PS, were joined by the Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary to blow out candles on the celebration cake. The children also built a replica of the suspension bridge in the education centre.

An evening of presentations was delivered on the bridge's construction, maintenance and development works, and its future use as a public transport corridor and alternative crossing.



REGIONAL CHARITY INITIATIVE



Throughout the year, we receive requests for donations to help fund community projects, schools, youth and adult sports clubs, mental health initiatives and much, much more.



Regional charity initiative

At the start of the year, employees are asked to nominate a smaller local or regional cause which BEAR will donate £750 to.

The eight organisations chosen are local initiatives that will appreciate the impact of the financial boost. It might be an organisation that is close to the heart of the person who nominated it.

In 2024 organisations from across the NW and SE footprints benefited along with the M80 DBFO and A92 DBFO.

- Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity
- Scottish Borders Donkey Sanctuary
- Borders Water Rescue Team
- Moodiesburn Coffee House
- The Reconnection Project
- Befrienders Highland
- Highland & Islands Blood Bikes
- Munlochy Animal Rescue



Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity

Nominated by Gillian Laurie

Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity provides patients and their families with activities such as weekly film nights, games and dance workshops. It also has a supply of phone chargers and toiletries they can give parents if needed as they understand that having a child in hospital is a stressful time and such things can be forgotten.

Kate Dixon from Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity said: "Donations like these allows us to be able to offer a wide range of support, no matter the circumstance. People are often going through the worst times in their lives when they see us. We want to be able to give the best support to everyone no matter their situation."



South East Unit



South East Unit

Borders Water Rescue Team

Nominated by Caitlin Campbell

Borders Water Rescue Team is a voluntary service that acts as an extension of the local emergency services. Their experienced team assist with missing person searches, swift water rescue, and flooding evacuation. Bob Meins, Borders Water Rescue Team founding member, said: "Being first responders, costs can be high to make sure we keep ourselves and the public safe. We have recently taken on six new trainees so these funds will be going towards helping them get trained. It will help us put on more water safety talks and presentations within schools and community groups throughout the Borders." Thanks to the vital service they provide, larger audiences can attend activities like Common Ridings and water obstacles safely.

Scottish Borders Donkey Sanctuary

Nominated by Chris Waite

Founded 21 years ago, the Scottish Borders Donkey Sanctuary rehome donkeys that have been rescued locally from abroad and some that have been born at the sanctuary. Every donkey the sanctuary has rescued enjoys a quality of life and any treatment they require to keep them healthy during their time there.

The sanctuary is open for nine months every year when members of the public can come and visit, donate towards feed, facilities and vet bills, and even adopt a donkey for the year! John Wilson, General Manager of The Scottish Borders Donkey Sanctuary said "We have had an influx of donkeys over the past year, meaning that all costs are raised. Generous donations like this help us ensure that the facility up-keep and vet bills are covered for the upcoming winter season."



South East Unit



M80 DBFO

Moodiesburn Coffee House

Nominated by David Paton

The Coffee House has grown from a small charity coffee shop to a beloved part of the Moodiesburn community by offering people with learning disabilities or experiencing social isolation a place to work or spend time. The Coffee House also offers free counselling sessions for those who need them and during the winter they open later to offer people hot food. This year they are starting a new partnership with addiction services in Glasgow to provide people exiting rehabilitation with a place to find stability. Nicola Adams, The Coffee House Founder said: "Donations like these help us keep the prices low, especially in the current times we are living in. They also help us to keep offering our free counselling sessions which are a lifeline for some. So, thank you for your generous donation."

Befrienders Highland
Nominated by Darren Donaldson

Befrienders Highland have volunteers who support those experiencing mental illness and memory loss. The charity offers a variety of services including a mental health recovery programme, distant befriending and group sessions. Group sessions encourage members to get together with people who share similar interests to take part in fund activities. Alison Campbell, Senior Coordinator at Befrienders Highland said: "Befrienders Highland are delighted to receive this support from BEAR Scotland. As a small charity covering the whole of the Highlands, we rely on kind donations to keep our services going. This money will go towards supporting a friendship match which will include volunteer training and support, staff monitoring the friendship and basically helping someone to live their life better."



Highland & Islands Blood Bikes
Nominated by Stephen Urquhart

Highland and Islands Blood Bikes acts as an extension of the NHS's Highland transportation services. Covering an area of Scotland equivalent to Belgium, it relies solely on donations and grants. The service transports medications, blood samples and other vital materials that the NHS needs delivered across this area. Operating a fleet of six motorbikes, one van and one car, Highland and Islands Blood Bikes has bases in Inverness, Fort William, Oban and Wick, which enable it to cover the entire area quickly and efficiently. Gordon Scott, Highland and Islands Blood Bikes Secretary said: "Donations are our life blood. We travel 120,000 miles annually. Donations help us buy and maintain our bikes as well as pay for our petrol. We are grateful to BEAR for supporting us."

Munlochy Animal Aid
Nominated by Duncan MacKnight

Founded 45-years ago by Iona Nicol and her animal-loving family. They rescue all kinds of animals that have been abandoned or neglected, providing a loving and caring environment. Munlochy Animal Aid also work hard to ensure every animal in their care is rehomed to a good, safe home by working hard in the local area to raise awareness, promoting responsible and compassionate pet ownership through educational talks. Iona Nicol, Munlochy Animal Aid founder said: "Our costs have gone up massively in the last year just to keep our lights on. We rely on donations of all sizes and are extremely grateful for any and all donations. We are the busiest we have ever been."



The Reconnection Project
Nominated by Steven Farquharson

The Reconnection Project works with people who are isolated from society due to addiction, mental health issues, or have been previously incarcerated gain the skills, confidence and workability to live normal lives again. Relying on donations, they believe that everyone should have a fair chance to work. Throughout 2023, The Reconnection Project helped 25 people through their three different departments. With a community garden, a woodworking shed and art and textile workshops they host a weekly market and café where they are able sell the things they make under the supervision of their seven volunteers. Dave Dyson, The Reconnection Project Founder said: "We are very grateful for the money donated by BEAR Scotland, we will split it between our different departments and use it for materials like wood, paint and fabrics."

LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Supporting local charities, communities and good causes across Scotland

Throughout the year we receive requests for support from groups across the country. This map gives an indication of the geographic spread of these initiatives.

- Stirling City Heritage Trust
- Rotary Club of Perth - Classic Car Tour
- St Catherine's Primary School
- Currie Star FC 2017s
- Horseshoe Bar Dalkeith fundraiser for CHAS
- Eyemouth Girls Football Team
- Craigie's Over 35 FC
- Clackmannan Early Learning Centre
- Kingussie High School Shinty Team

- Musselburgh Sea & Royal Marine Cadets
- Biggar Nursery School
- Newtonmore Juvenile Shinty Team
- Perth & Kinross Greyfriars House
- Five Sisters Zoo
- Easthouses War Memorial
- Christmas in Queensferry
- Langholm Christmas Fund
- Newton St Boswells Christmas Lights
- Speakability Tayside
- Scone Thistle Football Club

- Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance
- Strathendrick Under 16s Rugby
- Crombie Residents' Association
- Eyemouth Primary School Nursery
- Queensferry High School
- Ruthven Primary School
- Highland 4X4 Response
- Dunbar United Colts Under 16s
- Auchengeich Colliery Memorial Fund

- Milton of Leys Kids Football Club
- Handicabs Lothian Ukraine Bus Conversion Project
- Newtongrange Primary School Playground Improvements
- Perth Highland Games European Pipe Band Competition
- University of Glasgow, Suicidal Behaviour Research Lab
- Kidz Stop Nursery, Linlithgow
- Queensferry Ferry Fair
- Dalgety Bay & Hillend Gala
- Kirkliston Gala

Supporting community events, initiatives and clubs

Festive Foodbank Donation

For the second year running we have donated to North West and South East foodbanks throughout the year. This December we asked staff to donate selection boxes or Christmas treats for children. In total, over 100 festive goodies have been donated to local foodbanks.



Hedgehog Heaven

After receiving an enquiry from a member of the public with a request to have their vegetation cut back to prevent injury to their nesting wild hedgehogs, our NW Landscaping Team attended, cut back the vegetation as requested and were rewarded with some camera footage of the hedgehogs.



Five Sisters Zoo

Our electrical team reached out to Five Sisters Zoo to offer a donation of some old electrical wooden poles and cable drums for use in the lion and bear enclosures. This came at a fantastic time for the zoo as they have been carrying out enclosure improvements in anticipation of two lions who have been rescued from the conflict in Ukraine.



Biggar Nursery Playground Signs

Our operations team in the South East hand delivered some old roadwork signage to Biggar Nursery for use in their playground to help simulate what the young learners see in their local environment. Early Years Practitioner, Rosemary McCallum said " I have been asked to share the thanks of the whole nursery. It has made an instant improvement to our space and lots of chat and imaginative play.



Re-purposing PPE

We donated six waterproof jackets to Clackmannan Primary School for their nursery staff to keep warm and dry outdoors. Jackie Lindsay, Senior Early Learning and Childcare Educator, said: "A huge thank you to BEAR Scotland for the fabulous jackets. Our staff will benefit greatly wearing these jackets when outdoors with the children on a daily basis. We really, really, appreciate it."



Supporting community events, initiatives and clubs



Playground Planters

Gary Stobbart and his team of operatives from the South East Eyemouth Depot visited the local nursery to help with some ongoing playground improvements. Our team was on hand to supply soil and wheelbarrow it across the playground to fill their fabulous new tractor tyre planters.

Gala Day Bunting

BEAR helped put up and take down bunting for local gala days in Queensferry, Dalgety Bay and Kirkliston over the course of the summer months. The organisers of the Kirkliston gala wrote to say "A massive thank you to you all for arranging and putting up our Gala bunting - it looks brilliant!"



Railway Wood Tree Planting

On Friday 22 February four of our colleagues went along to Railway Wood adjacent to the M8 at Livingston to work with Woodland Trust, Network Rail and QTS to replant woodland that was harvested last year. Madi Jones, Caitlin Campbell, Rebecca McGreevy, and Rosie Getliff worked hard in the wind and rain and a total of 370 birch, rowan and elder trees were planted.

Hand-cut Benches for Nursery

A team of operatives from the South East Burghmuir Depot, were involved in turning the tree logs they cut down into seats and benches and delivered them to a local nursery. The Nursery Manager and children were very grateful and absolutely love their new perches!



Highland Litter Picking

BEAR Scotland has been doing its bit to help tackle litter on Scotland's trunk roads. We provided traffic management to allow the National Trust for Scotland to carry out a litter pick on the A82 in Glencoe.

Supporting community events, initiatives and clubs



Currie Star Football Club

Currie Star FC were delighted to receive sponsorship of £250 from BEAR Scotland for their 2017 team, which includes the son of South East Network Bridges Manager James Petrie (pictured). The team's home ground is less than a mile from the trunk road boundary on the A720.

Bill Taylor Football Tournament

A BEAR team, imaginatively called The BEARs, competed in the Bill Taylor Memorial Cup 2024 in Birmingham. This was the first time the five aside football tournament, in honour of our former managing director who went on to Ringway, has been held since COVID. The BEARs did us proud in the 35-team competition. They got to the quarter-finals where they were sadly beaten by the ultimate winners. The charity event raised funds for Cancer Research.



Megan Scott Football Sponsorship

This year BEAR was proud to sponsor Megan Scott, a relative of Willie MacDougall, NW Operations Manager. Megan was recently promoted to the ladies senior Inverness Caledonian Thistle Womens Football Team.

Eyemouth Girls Football Team

This year BEAR was delighted to be a sponsor of Eyemouth Girls Football Team. The team look fantastic in their pink tops with the BEAR logo emblazoned across the front.



Strathendrick RFC Under 16s

Strathendrick Rugby Club received a donation of £250 to help with their fundraising towards the under 16s team development. The donation given by BEAR has been put towards funding a membership at a gym to help improve the players' physical strength and conditioning, as well as a Veo Cam 3 which will support player reviews and improvement.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYEE FUNDRAISING



We support the efforts of BEAR Scotland team members who take on personal fundraising challenges by giving them a significant donation.



Supporting employee fundraising



Lands End to John O'Groats



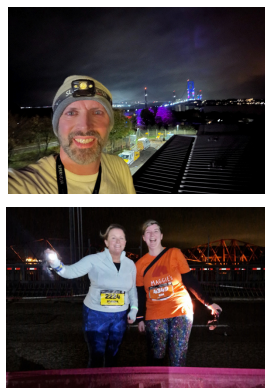
BEAR donated £250 in sponsorship to Emily Welsh, nominated by her husband Tony Welsh, NW Scheme Delivery Manager, for her Land's End to John O'Groats bicycle ride in aid of Mikeysline, a mental health charity based in Inverness.

Great Wilderness Challenge

Principal Bridge Engineer James Duthie ran the 25-mile Great Wilderness Challenge race from Dundonnell to Poolewe. This year's event has raised over £100k so far for Highland Hospice and a number of other good causes in the Highlands. BEAR Scotland supported James with a £250 donation.



Forth Road Bridge Supernova



Joanna Buggy, Kim Thain and Chris Waite from the Engagement team took part in the spectacular Supernova event at the Forth Road Bridge. Each of them received a £100 donation from BEAR towards their chosen charities.



Running to raise money for Scottish Autism



Cara Gourlay ran the Edinburgh Half Marathon Festival in aid of Scottish Autism. BEAR Scotland made a corporate donation of £250.



Sahara Trek for CHAS

In March 2025, Stuart Combe, SE Scheme Delivery Manager will embark on a challenging trek across the Sahara desert to support Children's Hospices Across Scotland.

We wish him the best of luck!



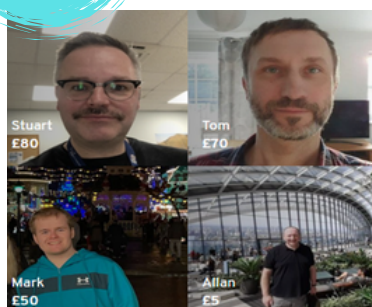
March the Month

Jay Smith, Roadworker from the North West Unit took on Prostate Cancer UK's 'March the Month' challenge raising a fantastic £550 for the charity.



Beardy BEARs

Nine BEAR staff took on the Movember challenge to either grow a moustache or Move 60km in November for the men's health and suicide prevention causes supported by the charity. Between them they raised £344 by the end of the month. BEAR matched their fundraising, bringing it to a total of £688.



Kilwalk for ECHC

Gillian Laurie, South East Correspondence Officer took on the Edinburgh Kilwalk in Aid of Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity.

Gillian and her friend managed to complete the marathon walk in five and half hours and received a £250 contribution to their fundraising!



MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT ON FRB

FRB Supernova

On 2 November 2024, 5,000 participants walked, jogged and ran over the Forth Road Bridge. Over £250k was raised on JustGiving (JustGiving estimate it represents 60% of fundraising for the event). GSi Events lead the event supported by BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland.

Three BEAR employees took on the FRB Supernova challenge. BEAR donated £100 to each of them.



Joanna Buggy - My Name's Doddie Foundation & Kim Thain - Maggie's



Chris Waite - Prostate Scotland



SUPERNOVA
FORTH ROAD BRIDGE



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION



BEAR Scotland is committed to inspiring and supporting the pipeline of talent into the sector.

Activities include attending school, college and university careers events. Hosting site visits for students and participating in mentoring initiatives.

University site visits

In 2024 BEAR Scotland hosted seven visits to various sites including Forth Road Bridge and Kincardine Bridge. One student said: "I visited an icon of civil engineering today and was so pleased to have access to the anchorage compartment to see the suspension cables."



Schools careers events

Employees from BEAR attended nine careers events at including the Women in Construction event at Stirling High School on International Women's Day and Lochaber Careers Fair, DYW West Highland's largest careers event with over 500 senior pupils.

CECA Scotland Academy

BEAR has actively supported the CECA Scotland's new academy initiative with Fife College and Inverness College. Offering site visits and attending post graduation careers fairs. We've employed two graduates.



STEM SCHOOLS PROGRAMME



BEAR runs engineer-led, in-person and virtual STEM school sessions for primary and secondary schools on behalf of Transport Scotland.

Pupils work collaboratively in teams, developing problem-solving, communication, team-working and organisational skills whilst completing STEM challenges. As well as focussing on engineering and bridges, we also cover:

- Climate change/Net zero/Carbon Capture
- Road safety
- Flooding and management of water
- New technology and future of transport

Schools engagement

In 2024 the education programme delivered sessions to **275 schools** (119 in person and 156 virtually). This reached over **11,700 pupils** from all all but one local authority area in Scotland.



Teacher feedback

There was great enthusiasm from the children. They were all involved, and learnt huge amounts about engineering and the bridges

Giving the children roles was brilliant to see and they all enjoyed playing the part.

A really wonderful school trip, thanks for having us!



Robotics challenge

BEAR Scotland sponsored Queensferry High School's participation in the international Robotics Challenge.

Spreading festive cheer to school children



Merry Grit-mas for children in the NW

Fraser (6) and Amy (6), pupils from Luncarty Primary School, were delighted to learn that their suggestions, 'Sammy Salt' and 'Olaf Snow Free Roads' would be emblazoning the side of two of our bright orange gritters whilst eight-year-old Sandy Lowe from Keiss Primary School in Wick came up with the winning name, 'Blizzard Wizard'.

'Sammy Salt', 'Olaf Snow Free Roads' and 'Blizzard Wizard' join the 115 strong fleet that plays an integral part in delivering BEAR Scotland's winter service. And the winning pupils, along with their classmates, were thrilled to get the chance to meet the 32-tonne eight-wheelers in all their glory! 'Blizzard Wizard', 'Sammy Salt' and 'Olaf Snow Free Roads' join other comically named spreading vehicles in the BEAR Scotland winter fleet, including: 'Sled Zepplin', 'Sir Andy Flurry', 'William Wall-Ice' and 'BEAR Chills'.

Olivia Bremner, teacher at Bower and Keiss Primary Cluster said: "Thank you so much for organising the visit. All of the children, especially Sandy, absolutely loved it and we are very grateful for the beanie hats!"

Emma Hepburn, Principal Teacher of Luncarty Primary School said: "We would like to say a huge thank you for arranging the visit of Sammy Salt. It has been the highlight of the term so far! We would like to extend a special thanks to Darak, the gritter driver, who was very kind and accommodating to us – especially in helping all of the children onto the driver's seat!"

Bower & Keiss Primary School



Luncarty Primary School



"The Forth Gritter" visits pupils at Duloch Primary School

Pupils at Duloch Primary School in Dunfermline were delighted to receive a visit from "The Forth Gritter", which had been named by 11-year-old Ava Laurie in Primary 7. Ava said: "I will be looking out for The Forth Gritter every time I see gritters on the road. I like to see all their names, some of them are funny. Gritters do such an important job in the winter."

Severe Weather Manager Alasdair Allen gave the class a talk on the work that BEAR Scotland does to keep roads and bridges safe, before the children got to see The Forth Gritter up close.

Iain Murray, BEAR Scotland's Managing Director, said: "It has been a pleasure for our teams to visit schools and give the children the chance to see these huge vehicles in all their glory.

"Comical names like 'Gritty Bang Bang', 'Sprinklbell' and 'Licence to Chill' are not just a great way for us to engage with the local communities that we serve, they also help to raise spirits and humanise the important work that our team delivers around the clock throughout the winter season."



Duloch Primary School



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2024