



# THE YEAR *in* REVIEW

A look back at 2015 with the team at  
The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation

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## *Hello from Speyside*

2015 has been another very busy year for the Foundation with a host of diverse projects being supported. It is very satisfying to report that more than £200,000 has been awarded in the last twelve months to over 40 worthy community driven initiatives across the north of Scotland.

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as Foundation Manager is being able to travel around meeting people who are passionate about what they are doing in their communities to make a positive difference. It has been a fantastic personal journey investigating so many interesting initiatives. True to Gordon Baxter's vision, the Foundation will continue to follow closely the progress of every project it is helping.

Trustees continue to provide great support, particularly in spending considerable time reading my regular reports and emails as a result of the increased activity of the Foundation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for being wonderful ambassadors in representing the Foundation and, on a personal level, for their cheerful encouragement in all our activities.

This year, we were delighted to welcome an additional Trustee to our Board – Sarah Rollo, Senior Reporter at the local newspaper 'The Northern Scot'. Sarah had a couple of memorable reporting experiences with Gordon Baxter in her early days of journalism. She is proving to be a tremendous asset to the Foundation with her specialist knowledge and expertise in communications and public relations.

As we move into 2016, we look forward to finding more innovative and creative projects for funding opportunities. To keep up with the latest news from the Foundation, remember to check out our website and Facebook page.

With all good wishes

**FOUNDATION MANAGER**

### **LEONARD CHESHIRE DISABILITY CENTRE – ART EXHIBITION**

**£15,000 over 3 years**

The art therapy programme which has been running for the last 18 months at Cheshire House in Inverness is proving a great success. Visitors to Eden Court Theatre during November witnessed an exciting collection of artwork by a talented group of young people with autistic spectrum disorders.

The official exhibition launch was enjoyed by a happy gathering of many of the young artists, their carers and family members. It is inspiring to hear from these young people themselves about how art has not only brought them great pleasure but has also improved their confidence and helped them communicate with others around them. There is no doubt that Gordon and Ena would have thoroughly enjoyed this exhibition.



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**THE  
GORDON & ENA BAXTER  
FOUNDATION**

# Making a difference.

## ARI ROOF GARDEN

£25,000

During their lifetimes, Gordon and Ena took a great interest in and supported the many varied projects undertaken at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to help people from all over the north of Scotland. Trustees continue to admire the efforts of those who strive to improve the well being of patients and visitors to the hospital. The Baxter family is delighted to be able to support this innovative project to install a prize winning Chelsea Flower Show garden in a large, reinforced roof space at the hospital.

ARI Chaplain, Rev James Falconer, said “I know that both Gordon and Ena Baxter loved their own garden in Fochabers. We are tremendously grateful to the Foundation for sharing our vision for a beautiful, supportive and inspiring place for inpatients. I know how much this green space will mean to patients in hospital and to their families and friends who visit them.”



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



## NORTH CRICKET CLUBS

£10,000

Trustees continue to follow the success of the Moray Cricket Association and the activities of the North of Scotland Cricket Association in developing the skills of young cricketers. As a result, the Foundation has funded a number of cricket club projects ranging from new roller equipment to artificial wickets. Cricket Scotland's North of Scotland Development Officer strives to enhance opportunities for young players in the north to experience a variety of inter-club activities. In 2016 the Foundation will be supporting the **North Caledonian Festival of Cricket** for under-13s and under-15s across the north of Scotland.



## KERBS – KEITH ROLLERBLADE, BMX AND SKATERS CLUB

£10,000 match funding

This dedicated group of parents and youngsters has certainly provided one of the Foundation's favourite projects during 2015, not least for their drive and enthusiasm. They took up the challenge to match fund the initial phase of their project and, through sheer hard work to fundraise in as many different ways as possible, they succeeded in reaching their target within 6 months. We are sure that the youngsters will have benefitted a great deal in being involved in every step of this fundraising journey.



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**OUTFIT MORAY**

**£4,900**

Sadly, one in five children in Scotland live in poverty. Giving young disadvantaged people the opportunity to be involved in a brighter and more satisfying life experience and, in doing so, giving them new skills and confidence, is high on the Foundation's agenda. In August the Foundation supported the outfit Moray team in holding their first holiday respite break for around 14 Moray youngsters aged between 12-15 years. The breaks are designed to give children the chance to have fun, try new things, get involved in outdoor learning and help build more positive childhood memories.



**SHOPMOBILITY MORAY**

**£2,500**

The local Elgin branch was able to bolster its fleet with two new mobility scooters as a result of the Foundation's support. There is a growing register of people using the facilities of the Moray branch which offers help for those with limited mobility, or sight and hearing problems, which can make venturing outdoors a real struggle. Photo courtesy of The Northern Scot.

**HIGHLAND WILDLIFE PARK**

**£5,500**

I recall my very first school trip to the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincaig during the 1970s. It made a tremendous personal impact which led to my keen interest in Scotland's rich natural heritage. The RZSS Educational Programme at Kincaig welcomes more than 2,000 children each year who benefit from structured, comprehensive workshops where they can get close to vulnerable Scottish wildlife in conditions developed to replicate habitats in the wild. The Foundation's funding has assisted RZSS to acquire new educational materials to improve their current programme.



**CULLEN SEA SCHOOL**

**£3,000**

The Three Harbours Association (covering the communities of Cullen, Portknockie and Findochty) has successfully transformed a derelict boat store at Cullen harbour into a modern purpose-built facility. Watersport activities including canoeing, sea kayaking, coastal rowing, small boat building and sailing will be on offer. This exciting, innovative development aims to create opportunities to promote traditional skills, establish SQA accredited courses in boatbuilding and modern apprenticeships. The Foundation has helped the group purchase a St Ayles Skiff and tool kits for building purposes.



**OTHER PROJECTS**

Cruse Bereavement – Moray Schools	£16,730
Buckie and District Fishing Heritage	£1,870
Piping at Forres	£2,000
Covesea Lighthouse Heritage project	£25,000
MFR Cash for Kids Bed Appeal	£5,000
Speyfest Young Entertainer of the Year	£3,000
Archie Foundation, Raigmore Hospital	£25,000
Maggies Centre, Inverness	£12,000

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Mrs Ena Baxter passed away peacefully at Balhousie Care Home in Huntly in January of this year. Ena and her husband Gordon have left a marvellous legacy which will continue to support many important community initiatives in the coming years. All those who had the privilege of knowing them will remember what a formidable team they made.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that their vision plays a major part in determining funding projects in the future.



**'TASTE NORTH' FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL**

**£400**

The inaugural Taste North festival in Caithness included a new culinary competition for students in the Wick and Thurso area. Key people in the hospitality and culinary industry in the north are working closely with schools and colleges to inspire youngsters to enter a career within the hospitality industry. The Foundation was delighted to be able to provide the trophy and prizes for the winning entries.



**ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY – THE ENA BAXTER ART SCHOLARSHIP**

**£7,500 over 3 years**

A new scholarship scheme to honour Ena, one of Gray's School of Art's most successful graduates, has recently been launched at RGU in Aberdeen.

RGU is committed to extending access to learning and enable talented individuals from under-represented groups, particularly those from deprived areas, to achieve their ambitions through higher education.

Gordon and Ena spent their lifetime supporting the arts in many different ways. They were also keen to help young people strive to be the best they could be in their chosen field. Ena often spoke of her happy student days in Aberdeen and this is a fitting tribute to her memory. Trustees are looking forward to following the progress of the first successful candidate to benefit from this special scholarship.



**PLAYLIST FOR LIFE**

**£20,000**

Established in 2013 by television presenter Sally Magnusson, Playlist for Life aims to improve the wellbeing of people with dementia by giving them access to personally meaningful music, often played through a media player such as an iPod. This simple intervention of music helps evoke precious memories, reconnect loved ones and above all restore a sense of self and a renewed feeling

of familiarity in a world which has become increasingly alien and bewildering.

Many friends of the Baxters will remember Ena's love of music and song. The Foundation is pleased to be supporting the charity's ongoing development and testing of accessible digital resources. Balhousie Care Home in Huntly has already adopted this initiative and the care team is delivering personalised music to many of its care home residents.

**We wish you a very happy and prosperous new year.**