



## Article 1.2 The Group Training and Learning Fund

Our first set of articles focuses on our well established, and ever developing, Training and Learning Fund. The fund was originally set up in order to distribute income from the wind turbine to residents of the island, in order to benefit members of the community directly in many aspects of personal development.

Article 1.2 focuses on our Group Training and Learning Fund, there are 2 other aspects of the Fund, information on these can be found at: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/newsletter/>

### **The Group Training and Learning Fund**

#### **What is it and how much are we entitled to?**

A recently established aspect of the fund is the Group Training and Learning Fund. Do you and your fellow Islanders have a shared hobby? Perhaps you're among a group of people who wish to develop a particular vocational skill? Maybe you would like to arrange an event which would include a variety of learning tasks and bring the community together? Not to be confused with The Development Trust's Community Fund, you do not need to be a constituted group to benefit from this fund! The Group Training and Learning Fund offers a wide variety of options to those of you who would like to undertake learning, not just to improve your personal skills, but to enhance your social skills and abilities. Each group can apply for up to £1000 per year towards an activity or course, event or shared hobby. As with the Individual Training and Learning Fund, applications will be assessed on an individual basis to ensure that they meet the aims of The Trust.

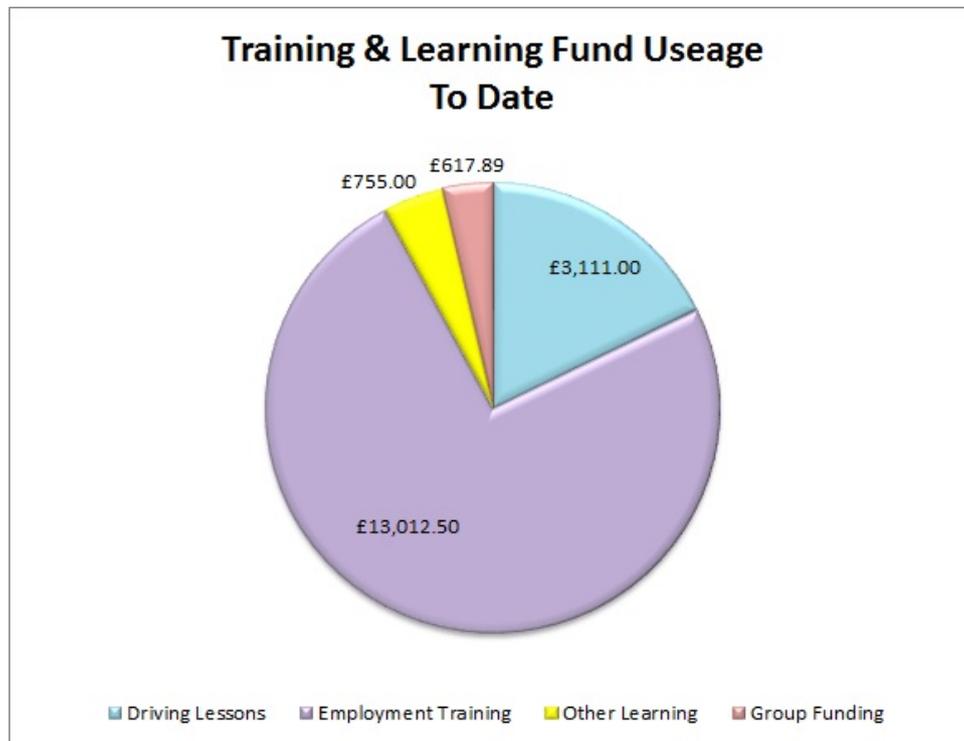
Applications to The Group Training and Learning Fund are almost always dealt with by the office staff, and the turn around on decisions is usually very quick.

Please note, allocation of these funds is dependent on the number of applications that the Trust receives and the value of awards that we have granted during the year, so don't delay in submitting your application!



### So what could you use it for?

So far, The Trust has received and approved 70 applications for funding in the Training and Learning category, with a combined total of £17,496.39 paid out across the two established aspects of the Training and Learning Fund. This is how the funds have so far been utilised:



To date, the Trust has received and approved 3 applications to The Group Training and Learning Fund. These were...

#### *Machine Embroidery Classes*

A class dedicated to improving skills with machine embroidery, undertaken on the island and lead by an instructor. '(The Teacher) was enthusiastic, great with all abilities and suggested many imaginative projects.

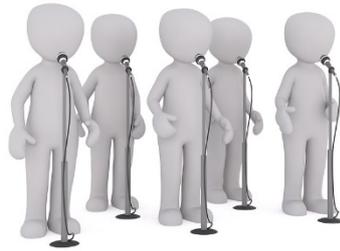


(I gained) inspiration! I rushed onto the Internet and bought lots of embroidery threads! 'The (application) form was easy to understand and help was forthcoming when needed.'



### *A Two Week Choir Workshop*

'The application was to enable me, with fellow members of the choir, to continue to sing regularly under the guidance and tuition of an experienced choirmaster and composer who has written several pieces for us.



As well as providing the members with education, enjoyment and companionship, continuing the choir provides a useful community benefit. New residents are attracted by an island that can offer a variety of activities. Communal singing is popular and has proven health benefits, especially in an ageing population...The choir made plans for the future.'

### *Tai Chi Workshop*

'Tai Chi is a Chinese martial art suitable for all ages, its health giving properties are known throughout the world. Regular practice will help to strengthen and maintain all the internal organs, joints and muscles, reduce stress and tension, co-ordinate mind and body and give a general feeling of well-being....After seeking interest for this course through posters around the island and on the community Facebook page, we had 22 people who were interested. We wanted to provide this free of charge (funded through The Trust) to see how people felt about it after the workshop, and if further sessions were in demand, we would look to put a further application into the fund for part costs on each session.'



There are a variety of options open to both constituted and non-constituted groups for applying to this fund. Dance classes, sports training, computer classes, the list is not exhaustive. If you are unsure as to whether or not you think you may be able to obtain funding through The Trust, please get in touch with us and we can discuss it with you.

Activities and courses do not need to result in a vocational or professional qualification in order to qualify for funding.





A photograph of a recent Tai Chi Workshop supported by funds of The Group Training and Learning Fund.

**OK, I've chosen my activity or course, how do I apply?**

Application is similar to The Individual Training and Learning Fund. Applicants are advised to obtain a list of interested participants, and we require for one of these participants to make a single application to The Trust. Again, applications can be done in a number of ways. You can download a form by clicking on the following link: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/2016/06/training-learning-fund-application-form/>, we can email, or post you a hard copy, or you can pop into the office and we can assist you with your application.

Course funding may depend on participants applying for external funding as well as funding from the Development Trust. In some instances, applicants may be entitled to external support, which they should investigate in order to qualify for funding through The Trust, the office may be able to assist you with this, please feel free to contact us.

Applications for funding must be received prior to activities or courses being undertaken and we may have to refuse funding if the application is retrospective.



### **How often can I apply?**

Each group can apply to the fund for up to the value of £1000 for each activity per year. For on-going activities, applications will need to be resubmitted annually as we cannot guarantee that approved funding will be continuously offered. It is important to note, any participant who partakes in a group activity, who has collectively benefited from funding from The Group Training and Learning Fund, will not lose any of their entitlement to their designated allowance of funding from The Individual Training and Learning Fund. So for example, you may decide that you wish to undertake an evening course to study Higher Human Biology through Orkney College, you may apply for funding towards the course itself, the travel, and towards the cost of accommodation to stay over on Mainland Orkney, but you might also decide that you want to partake in a Rugby or Netball workshop for example, which has been organised by another community member to take place on the island. You would be entitled to funding from The Group Training and Learning Fund as well. In short, each application will be independent from the other.

**So why not put in an application form? Download, fill in, and send it back to us and you and your group could be learning again in no time!**

