

Anniversary
15th
Viridor Credits
Opportunities for Communities



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A Celebration of 15 years of Opportunities for Communities

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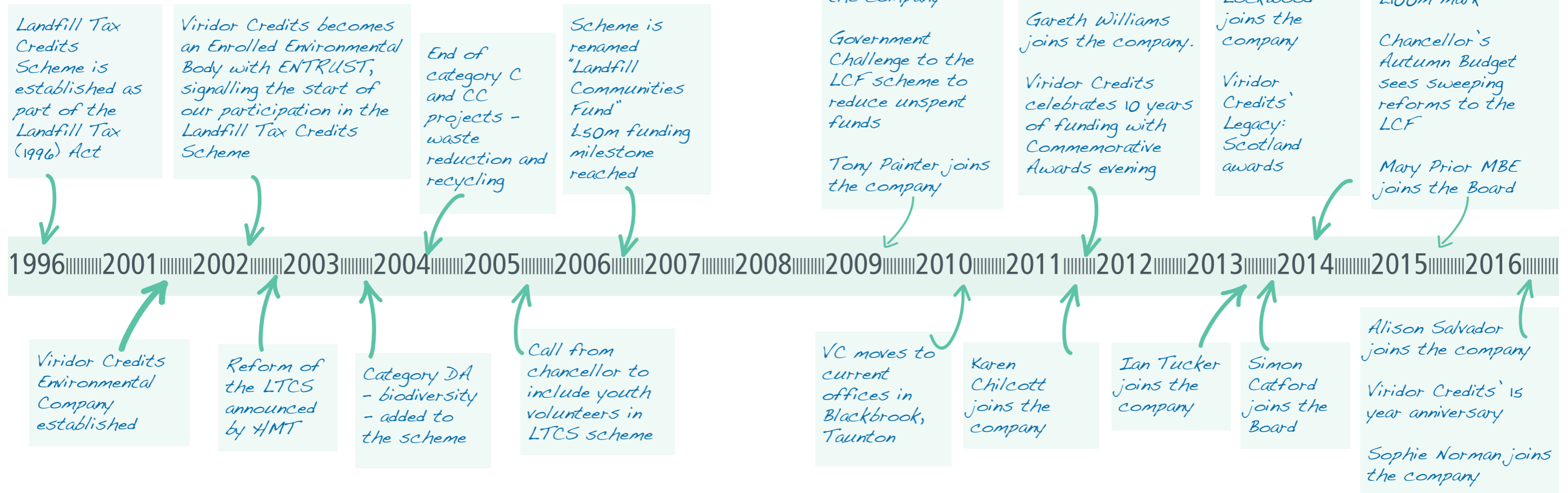
Chairman's Foreword



I have great pleasure in introducing this brochure which marks the 15th anniversary of Viridor Credits Environmental Company. It recognises the 4100 projects that have been funded to a total value of £120m over the life of the company to date, wonderful projects that have made a real difference to local communities across the length and breadth of the British Isles.

The brochure is also intended as a memento for those many individuals that have engaged with Viridor Credits whether as a Trustee, steering group member or employee. The brochure is our way of saying thank you to all these volunteers and employed staff who have helped us along the way. With so many projects to choose from it has been a daunting task to choose just one representative project from each of the fifteen years and I hope you enjoy seeing the result and feel proud of your part in helping Viridor Credits make these projects happen.

Mr Peter Renshaw
Chairman



Introduction

The Landfill Communities Fund was born from one of the most successful examples of green taxes in the UK. Since 1996, every tonne of waste deposited into landfill has attracted a green tax - primarily in place to discourage landfill and incentivise recycling - a proportion of which is donated by landfill operators to the Landfill Communities Fund to help community projects all over the UK.

Since 1996, the Landfill Communities Fund has enabled Environmental Bodies like Viridor Credits Environmental Company to distribute £1.3billion to over 50,000 projects in the vicinity of landfill sites.

Established in 2001, Viridor Credits has administered Viridor's contribution to the Fund for 15 successful years. In this time, Viridor Credits has funded iconic projects and facilities such as the Great Crane Project, Glastonbury Abbey, Wilton Music Hall and St. Bride's Church in East Kilbride.



Each project has its own story, and the projects featured in this brochure demonstrate the benefits and opportunities that an application to the Landfill Communities Fund can present, with the effect of funding going far beyond the original application.

Viridor Credits is proud to have been a major part of the fund for the last 15 years, and will continue to fund the very best community, heritage and biodiversity projects for years to come.



Heart of Reeds, Lewes

On the site of the former Lewes of Uckfield railway line is an urban haven that encourages the visitor to wander the paths of a heart of reeds, one of Viridor Credits' very first projects.

What was once railway sidings is now an important Local Nature Reserve and diverse habitat for wildlife, designed by the renowned artist Chris Drury. The design is based on a cross section of a human heart, reflecting the movement of water around the reed beds which help to attract wildlife.

The heart design also provides a clever system of managing the water table in the reserve, with a boardwalk separating the two halves of the heart, so that one half can be drained and harvested, leaving the other half intact while it recovers.

This project, headed up by Railway Land Wildlife Trust, was a precursor to the construction of the Linklater Pavilion - also funded by Viridor Credits - which provides a centre for education on sustainability and environmental change.



The Heart of Reeds covers 2.5 acres

Photography: Nicholas Sinclair



Prior's Wood, North Somerset

When part of the former Tyntesfield Estate was put up for sale, Avon Wildlife Trust saw an opportunity to secure a priority site in the Gordano Valley, near Portbury. Prior's Wood, a 61-acre woodland, subsequently recognised as ancient woodland and one of the best bluebell woods in the South West.

With the woods full of oak, hazel and birdlife, Avon Wildlife Trust were eager to purchase this land to protect it from destructive pursuits, such as paintballing or 4x4s, and open the woods for public enjoyment for the first time in 200 years. AWT turned to YANSEC and Viridor Credits for the funds to acquire it. Their application was successful, and the woods were purchased, becoming one of AWT's most high-profile sites.

Now in ownership of the land, the Trust was awarded a further tranche of funding to improve the management of the woods, which had been neglected in the years leading up to the purchase. Paths were cleared for walkers, with the Trust also building bridges over the stream that runs through the site and erecting interpretation boards along the trails.

All this means that the woods can be enjoyed by the thousands of walkers who visit each year, particularly during bluebell season. The reserve was Avon Wildlife Trust's reserve of the month for April 2012.

This project was a key point in the Trust's relationship with Viridor Credits, and paved the way for further support at Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock, the Trust's flagship Bristol Green Capital Project.



One of the best bluebell woods in the South West!





2004



St. Mary's House and Gardens, Bramber

Built on land bequeathed to the Knights Templar, this 15th Century building is a fantastic example of English medieval architecture.

The Grade I-listed house, originally built as an inn for pilgrims on their way to the tomb of St. Thomas in Canterbury, has five acres of gardens, offering visitors a glimpse of topiary or terracotta in the various themed spaces, as well as a small rural museum. Its history includes royal visits and, possibly, royal escapes!

The building is full of historic architectural features, and its great age means that many were in need of renovation when The St. Mary's Historic House and Gardens Charitable Trust approached Viridor Credits for funding in 2004.

The project included the renovation of medieval elm gutters and repair of windows; essential in ensuring the building does not suffer from water ingress, as well as stone repairs and works on the roof.

This successful project was followed up with further awards to repair leaded windows, leaning chimneys and stained glass.

Not only have these projects helped to maintain a unique example of English heritage, the work of the Trust was rewarded in 2011 with Best Renovation from Hudson's Heritage Awards.



*Winner of
Hudson's
Heritage
Best
Renovation
in 2011*

Great Bustard Project

The Great Bustard was once a common and popular sight in Britain, even being incorporated into the Wiltshire county coat of arms. However, trophy hunters and changes in agriculture meant that the bird was extinct in Victorian Britain by the mid 1800s.

The Great Bustard Group, set up in 1998, sought to explore the possibility of reintroducing the bird to the UK and, in 2004, the first cohort of chicks was imported from Russia.

In 2005, Viridor Credits awarded funding towards the second year's release, which were hand-reared using special "dehumanisation" suits in soft pens, and the chicks prepared for release into the wild by being trained to fear predators, chief among them the fox. Once the birds matured, they were released onto a secret location on, aptly, Salisbury Plain.

Since their release, the birds have dispersed around the south of England, occasionally returning to the very field they were released into. In 2009, wild Great Bustard chicks were spotted for the first time, marking a major milestone in the achievements of the project. The Great Bustard Group received a boost in 2011 by securing a major EU grant, used to pioneer new rearing techniques, lease and manage habitats for Great Bustards and widen the gene pool of existing Bustard droves as the group works towards a first sustainable population of Great Bustards in 170 years.



2005

Magelake Hall and Recreation Ground, Uffculme



Magelake Hall and Recreation Ground in Uffculme, Devon, has been developed over the last 15 years from a modest parish hall into a modern multi-sport and leisure facility.

Originally built in 1977 on land bequeathed to the parish council as a recreation ground, the old hall was extended in the 90s and a series of awards from the Landfill Communities Fund enabled the parish to make small improvements to the site. However, it was an award from Viridor Credits in 2006 that saw the site become a true multi-sports facility with the opening of the all-weather pitch.

This investment became the catalyst for further works, including floodlighting in the same year for all year-round play, before disaster struck as the all-weather surface was damaged by flooding.

Fortunately, the Parish Council was able to raise funds for the repairs for this important facility, which promotes sport and fitness for the whole community and involves all age groups - from juniors to the more mature members of the Walking Football team, with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle in the small, rural community.

Following the addition of the MUGA, the popularity of Magelake Parish Pavilion as both a sporting and recreational venue saw a marked increase, and with the support again from Viridor Credits, a multi-use indoor sports and leisure facility was built in 2010/11 and now provides two function rooms, bars, kitchen and FA standard changing rooms.



2006

Astley Green Colliery Museum

Founded in 1985 by the Red Rose Steam Society Ltd, the museum on the site of the old Astley Green Colliery is a sanctuary for old mining pieces, saved for prosperity and education.

An entirely volunteer-run facility, the aim of the society is to collect and restore mining-related items, having first saved the unique colliery - Lancashire's last - from demolition following the end of mining operations in 1970.

A long-term aim of the group was to construct a 2ft gauge railway to link the wharf on Bridgewater Canal to the museum. By constructing this link, visitors to the museum would be able to use authentic underground trains, witnessing the museum's collection in operation.

In 2007, a successful application to Viridor Credits meant that previously slow progress on the construction was given a huge boost and, except for the excavation of the land, the whole railway was constructed by voluntary labour and proved to be a good training exercise in railway construction!

The award considerably reduced the time taken to construct the railway and after many years of slow progress great strides have been made in creating the museum that the society has worked so hard to achieve.

Since construction, the museum attracts more visitors and has seen a rise in return visitors. This has enabled the society to realise another major project - making the steam winding engine operational. This is the largest of its type in the UK and has been scheduled by English Heritage. Work is now in progress on another project to preserve the 100ft high winding tower, which is also a scheduled monument.



Lancashire's last colliery



Largest steam winding engine in the UK



The Tank Museum, Dorset

The Tank Museum in Bovington, Dorset houses the largest collection of tanks in the world. Originally established as a loose assortment of vehicles following the Great War, the museum has expanded organically throughout the 20th century and is now a nationally important collection.

By the late 1990s, it was clear that the visitor experience was uncompetitive and in need of a major upgrade.

Following a series of improvements, in 2008, £35,000 was awarded by Viridor Credits towards the Tank Museum's "At Close Quarters" redevelopment project, which sought to deliver a step-change in the experience of visitors coming to the Museum. The grant paid for improvements in displays and signage in the older parts of the Museum.

The programme was more successful than the most optimistic forecasts. Visitor numbers in year one were almost exactly on target with a 40% increase. Furthermore, this growth has continued, with visitor figures now about 60% higher than in 2008.

The project in which Viridor Credits participated underpinned all the success of The Tank Museum in the last 10 years. By improving the visitor experience, it was possible to invest in the collections for the ongoing benefit of the public.

The follow up project in 2012 was the construction of the "Vehicle Conservation Centre" to which Viridor Credits contributed a further £150,000. The combination of the two projects has enabled the Museum to both improve the experience of visitors and start to get to grips with the long-term conservation of these important collections.

2008

Forty-five tanks in the grand display - May 2014



The Tank Museum has doubled the amount of visitors since 2008



Thousands of pounds raised from donations from the general public



St. Stephen's Church, Exeter

St. Stephen's Church is a 1000-year old consecrated building in the heart of Exeter and one of five remaining ancient churches in the city. During its lifetime, it has survived the Norman Conquest, the Reformation, the English civil war and the Blitz of 1942.

It has been repaired countless times (not always sympathetically) and remains as a beacon of continuity in the centre of a modern city that has suffered extensive war damage and redevelopment.

With the regeneration of the city centre, the church decided it was time to bring St. Stephen's into the 21st century with a programme of extensive repairs and upgrades to basic facilities, creating a unique community space amidst the bustle of the city. Five phases of work were required in order to meet the project aims, and also to give time for the church to raise the vast sums needed to renovate this old building (full funding was only achieved in early July 2012). Included in the phases were roof and tower repairs, internal community facilities, disabled access and even the exploration of a Saxon crypt that was previously undiscovered.

The final phase saw the installation of an interactive history of St. Stephen's and Exeter, as well as a Heritage Centre in the bow and, on 19th July 2012 the vision of St. Stephen's Project was realised, and the Church was formally opened to the general public.

Donations from parishioners and the general public went a long way to securing valuable funding, but it was the award from Viridor Credits that really allowed the project to go one step further than basic repairs, creating a modern, accessible space for worship and community activities.



2009

2010

Coleridge Cottage, Nether Stowey

An unassuming cottage in Nether Stowey was transformed in 2010 into a living museum to the great poet Samuel Coleridge.

Built in the 17th century, the cottage began life as a Georgian home before its most famous resident, Coleridge, took residence in 1797. It was over the next three years that Coleridge, and fellow poet William Wordsworth, started the English Romantic Literary Movement.

Although the National Trust had owned the cottage since 1909, its literary significance had not been recognised or appreciated and offered a poor visitor experience. A new and dedicated team decided to change this situation which is when Viridor Credits was approached for its help and expertise.

Funding was awarded to completely transform the former home of Coleridge as if he and his family had just briefly left the cottage. The interior was renovated and returned to its 18th Century state, including the fireplace where Coleridge penned Frost at Midnight, and the sensitive cover up of electrical sockets. Historic floors were revealed by removing concrete screed and the kitchen designed to display a family meal in mid-preparation.

As a result of the project, visitor numbers went from 3,800 to 11,000 within the first 12 months. And the project and the National Trust have won Gold in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards and Silver in the national Visit England awards.



*Winner of South West
Tourism Excellence
Award*



Polbathic Hall, Cornwall



Polbathic Village Hall, built in 1921 by the young men of Polbathic after the First World War, was in a bad state when the trustees of Polbathic Hall approached Viridor Credits for funding. The old place, much loved but now suffering from deteriorating timbers, leaking roof, draughts and an inefficient heating system, could no longer be maintained so the decision was made to replace the hall with a modern one.

The project, thanks to a £200,000 award from Viridor Credits, has resulted in a wonderful modern hall; insulated, safe and attractive to users.

This in turn has helped to attract new users to the hall, making the hall more viable financially, and contributing to continued improvement, social cohesion and community involvement.

Since being built, the hall committee has also been able to purchase their hall, meaning they now have added security over the site and the luxury of no rent, enabling the trustees to direct more funding into improving the hall further for the benefit of its users.

Meeth Quarry, Devon

For more than a century, Meeth Quarry in Devon was famous for the working of ball clay. When operations ceased in 2004, owners Imerys Minerals Limited agreed a restoration scheme with Devon County Council and environmental restoration of the heavily-worked site began in 2009.

With its areas of open water, Culm grassland, restored grassland and woodland, Meeth Quarry was a site with exceptional wildlife value and enormous potential for further habitat restoration. There was also the capacity to develop significant community engagement that would benefit both wildlife and people. Despite these attributes the site had no statutory protection or wildlife designation.

In 2012, a unique opportunity arose to purchase Meeth Quarry: an opportunity that Devon Wildlife Trust sought to take. Viridor Credits funding enabled DWT to purchase and safeguard the 150 hectare site in order to achieve these main objectives.

Since the purchase of Meeth Quarry, the true potential wildlife value of this site is becoming apparent. Wildfowl are starting to appear on the many man-made lakes, willow tits have been seen feeding on site, and hares have been bounding across pathways. There are more and more people able to visit the site, including, walkers, cyclists and volunteers, with new washroom facilities being a real bonus on this rural reserve. More access paths have been provided, as well as some interpretation. A bird hide is to go in soon as one of the many ongoing projects at this welcoming, wildlife-rich site.

The vision for the Trust is a Devon that is rich in all wildlife, where people enjoy and care about the natural world and take steps to safeguard it for the future - all of which is possible at Meeth Quarry.



Meeth Quarry covers a huge 150 acres!

2011 2012

Canterbury Cathedral

Canterbury Cathedral's famous North West Transept was completed in 1077 by Archbishop Lanfranc - part of a new Norman church built on original Anglo-Saxon remains. One thousand years later, the Cathedral's Quinquennial Inspection Report identified the North West Transept as in urgent need of attention.

The Norman masonry was in a dangerous state and the lead roofs (the earliest surviving roof structure in the Cathedral) were leaking. The damage posed a real risk in one of the most visited and historically significant parts of the Cathedral - the site of Thomas Becket's martyrdom. Restoration of the North West Transept was imperative: to protect the historic fabric, to ensure safe access for the public to the Martyrdom and to safeguard Becket's legacy.

The major restoration, aided by an award of £603,000 from Viridor Credits, has safeguarded this architecturally and historically significant part of Canterbury Cathedral. Safe access to the North West Transept has ensured that Canterbury Cathedral can continue to welcome one million visitors, including 100,000 school children, each year. Canterbury's social fabric will be further enhanced by the Cathedral delivering over 2,300 public events and services each year.

The major restoration of the North West Transept has shaped a new approach that the Works Department are taking with significant roof repairs to the Cathedral. Lessons learned with regard to scheduling and access will directly inform major repairs to the Nave, West Towers and Library Corridor.



Restoration of the North West Transept was imperative to protect the historic fabric and site of Becket's martyrdom.



2013



Camlachie Community Park

Camlachie is located in the east end of Glasgow in an area formerly known as Barrowfield. The neighbourhood contains in the region of 700 homes and a population of approximately 2,500 residents. It is, however, one of the most disadvantaged wards in the country.

A project to deliver high-quality environmental regeneration to a vacant and derelict site within the heart of one of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities has seen three phases of work completed, with a fourth phase funded in 2015 by Viridor Credits through the new Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

The project built on the previous phases and added value by supporting the community to work together to take ownership of the new park, the biodiversity that it supports, increase the employment, training and learning opportunities as well as the various health and wellbeing benefits that it can provide for them.

The delivery of this project provided an exemplar urban green space for the local community. The project enhanced the living standards for local residents and raised the profile of Camlachie within the wider east end. Redevelopment of the site assisted in a reduction of anti-social behaviour within the area, generating a greater feeling of safety and pride within the community.



St. Giles' Church Hall, Ashtead

An old chalk pit in Ashtead, Surrey was the focal point for an incredible fundraising effort by Ashtead PCC.

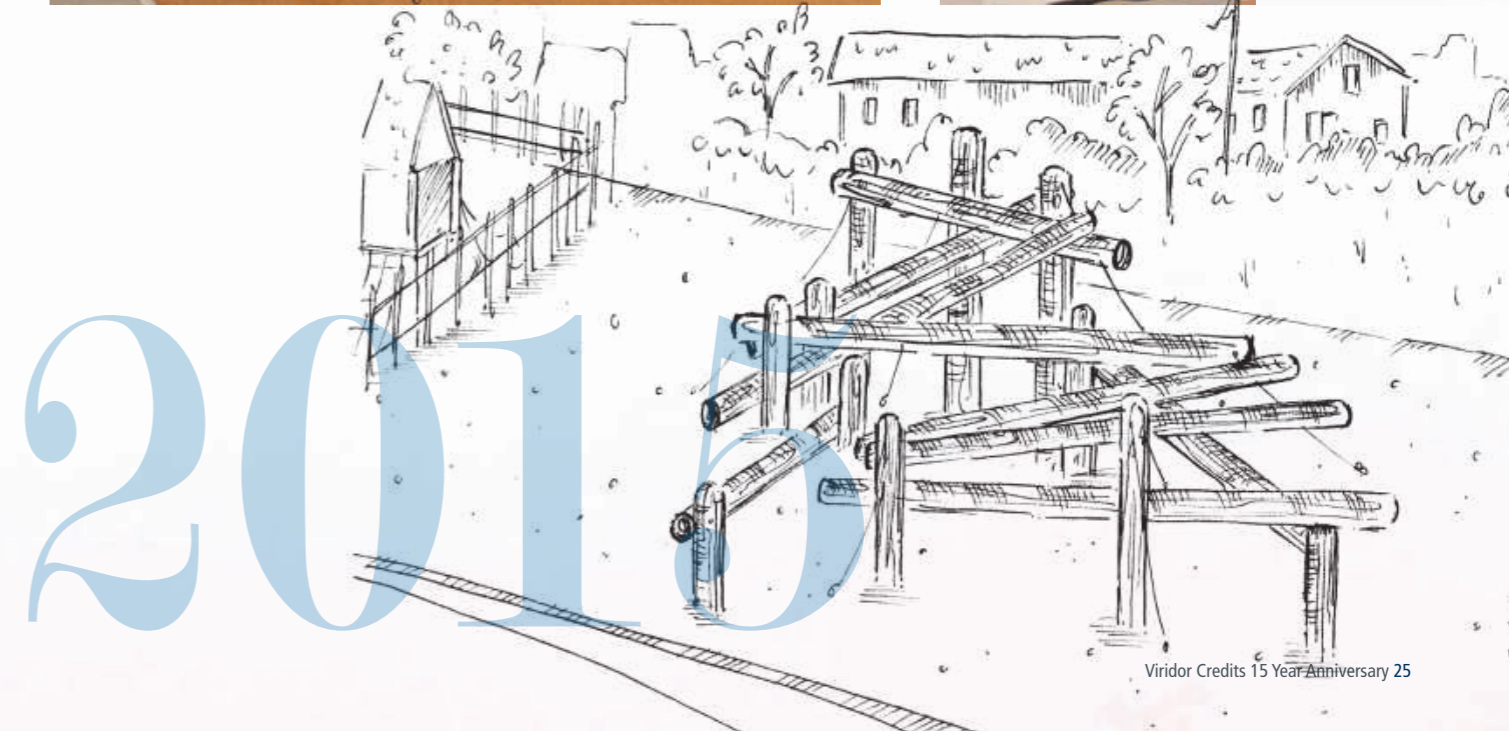
The pit was the site of the old hall in the Dell; a 40-year old prefabricated structure that was designed to last 20 years, and firmly past its prime. Careful maintenance of the structure had meant that it was usable for twice its expected lifespan, but by 2013 it was clear that the hall was no longer viable for use. However, despite the state of the hall, there were still many groups that wanted to use it.

Spurred into action and supported by a proactive community, by mid 2014 the PCC had raised an impressive £1m - half the target - and at the end of the year, Viridor Credits awarded £75,000 enabling work on the New Dell Centre to begin in the following February.

Officially opened in April 2016, The New Dell Centre is a vast improvement on the old hall. Larger and on two floors, the hall is able to accommodate more user groups with comfortable, modern facilities and the building is sensitively designed for the landscape.

The hall has also seen an increase in bookings and groups, with the community constantly seeking new opportunities to use the hall.

The success of the hall means that the Parish Council has been able to complete the work by re-landscaping the rest of the Dell around the building as well as planning to make a play space for children and a calm garden space for those who wish to take time for reflection.



Maitland Park, Musselburgh

Maitland Park estate was built in 1963 and the old play area was installed the same year.

Over the decades, the original equipment became unsafe and piece by piece was removed and, with children growing up and the cost of equipment ever rising, the old playground was not replaced.

In recent years, the population of the estate has changed with a large number of young residents with young children replacing the older occupants, and the need for a quality play area was identified by the young mothers group.

The Maitland Park Residents Association, managers of the estate by committee, made an approach to Viridor Credits for funding through the new Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, with a focus on encouraging outdoor play for children and fostering community spirit.

The new play area is now a focal point for the estate, bringing people together and, with plans to further upgrade the area, will provide a dedicated community area for fundraising and fun days.

Since the play area was installed, the residents' focus has turned to the nearby but dilapidated fenced ball area. Inspired by what has been achieved through Viridor Credits' funding, the committee is currently raising funds to upgrade the playing surface and goal posts, providing a facility for older children and perhaps even their parents!



Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funding partners who, over the last 15 years, have been vital in delivering hundreds of projects, they are:

Community First

Derbyshire Environmental Trust

Forward Scotland

Pilsworth Environmental Company

Suffolk Environmental Trust

Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment

Uffculme Environmental Limited

Ugbrooke Environmental Limited

Viridor Credits - Caradon

YANSEC

I would also like to give special thanks to Viridor, our donor landfill operator, for supporting the Landfill Communities Fund and Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Finally, I would like to give particular thanks to Emily Franks for compiling photos and text, Tim Julier for the overall design, Amy Boobyer for artwork and Gareth Williams for overseeing the production of our anniversary brochure.

Peter Renshaw
Chairman of Viridor Credits Environmental Company



Bristol Aerospace Centre, new hangar and archives, due to complete in 2017