From the Gathering 2022

Wish, worry and memory tree

WisheWishes for the sector (funding)

* Funding for all
* I wish the funding was annual instead of late – 10 months late
* I wish for fair funding from funders who TRUST the third sector with proportionate monitoring
* That we get funding for the next 3 years
* I wish for a fund that pours in support and wellbeing to all of us who pour ourselves into our community – you can’t pour from an empty cup
* I wish there was more funding in place to support services that look after our elderly in Scotland
* I wish local government fully understood and acknowledged the needs and demands of the voluntary sector and funded it appropriately
* I wish that there was more multi year funding so that we can invest fully in supporting
* Late funding is promise breaking
* Predictable sustainable funding for all. We can achieve all that is expected of us as a sector.

Wishes for the sector (other)

* In time we will not be needed
* I wish that this sector is always properly involved in the development of policy
* That the sector receives the recognition it deserves!
* More opportunities to try and fail and try again without having to jump hoops and tick boxes!!!
* Wish that this pandemic will not restrict us again
* I wish that more people would like to volunteer
* I wish for parity for the third sector
* Wish to make working(?) culture easier so we can focus on helping others
* More appreciation for those working in the voluntary sector.

 Wishes for society

* More playful lives
* Dates n mates to get bigger
* People are more connected with their local space
* I wish for a new caring government
* That local communities would be genuinely put at the centre of community planning/development
* We create a happier, healthier and greener Scotland
* We wish to prevent youth homelessness!
* Wish for happy, healthy and well integrated communities
* For all people to understand the importance of nature and protecting it and give thanks to those who work to protect it
* Everyone values the benefits of nature for wellbeing
* A full sensory room

Memories of the Gathering

* I have been to every Gathering
* Walked areas I didn’t know existed
* Amazing events, exhibitions and people from the voluntary sector at The Gathering across the years

Memories of the voluntary sector

* How our dogs, staff and volunteers can make a difference
* Joy of welcome and community
* Getting my first full time job
* Coming back to a reunion of scouting to hear “If I become a leader I hope I will be like you” from one of my former cub scouts now 17
* Memory of those lost to brain injuries ☹
* Using green space to destress
* Seeing the best part of human nature in the covid response
* Making our workplace more accessible
* Truly learning about social isolation during the pandemic and helping combat it
* I hope my time at Childline as a counsellor had as much impact on young peoples lives as it did on mine