

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum calls out for votes to bag a share of bag charge fund

The National Trust for Scotland's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch the monthly funding scheme, which sees grants of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 - all raised from the 5p bag levy - being awarded to local outdoor community projects. greenspace scotland is working with Groundwork to provide support to communities in Scotland.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and this month shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is one of the groups on the shortlist with its 'New Gardens' community project, which will create a natural garden at the historic Burns Cottage in Alloway, interpreting Robert Burns' father's intentions for the smallholding which he called 'New Gardens'. The space will benefit the whole community with opportunities to grow vegetables, access scenic walks and engage with their local heritage.

Property Manager Caroline Smith said:

"Burns Cottage has always been a central focus of Alloway life and we are looking forward to opening our garden out to the community, giving them access to green space, to grow fresh food and to get to know more about Burns and their local heritage at the same time."

For more information contact the Tesco Press Office on 01707 918 701

Tesco is a team of 480,000 colleagues, in 11 markets around the world. We are dedicated to serving shoppers a little better every day.

Voting is open in stores from 1 February to 25 February. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered over £25 million to more than 3,000 projects up and down the UK. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups each month. At the end of each month, when votes are collected, three groups in each of Tesco's regions will be awarded funding.

Tony McElroy, Tesco's Head of Communications in Scotland, said:

"We are absolutely delighted to open the voting for February. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists and we can't wait to see them come to life in hundreds of communities."

Emma Halliday, Community Enabler Coordinator at greenspace scotland, said:

"We've been thrilled to see the diversity of projects that have applied for funding, ranging from outdoor classrooms, sports facilities, community gardens, play areas and everything in between.

"We're looking forward to learning the results of the customer vote and then supporting each group to bring their project to life."

The Bags of Help scheme is permanently open for applications and anyone can nominate a project at any time - whether it's Tesco customers, colleagues or the community groups themselves. Just ask in store for more information or visit the Bags of Help website, visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp/

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Bags of Help initiative is supported by money from the five pence charge levied on single-use carrier bags in Tesco stores.
- So far Bags of Help has awarded over £25 million to more than 3,000 local community projects.
- For more information please visit: www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp/

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