

Highlands & Islands Thistle Awards Finalist – Celebrating Thriving Communities

Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum

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HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS
THISTLE AWARDS

in partnership with



The GALE story



MISSION

To socially, economically and environmentally regenerate the GALE area through participatory community action and community owned social enterprise.



Gairloch and Loch Ewe

- Central Wester Ross, Highland
- Population 2,500
- Land area 112,000 hectares
- Remote from centres of administration – nearest town Dingwall, 60 miles
- Area of benefit – Gairloch, Kinlochewe, Poolewe, Aultbea



Challenges

- Economy - Fragile, seasonal with limited employment opportunities
- Environmental degradation
- Land use, ownership & control
- Population change – depopulation, ageing, change in dynamic
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Lack of services and infrastructure
- Democracy and community empowerment



The GALE Centre, Gairloch





Building quality and sustainability



Energy





GALE IN NUMBERS

OVER A 12 MONTH PERIOD

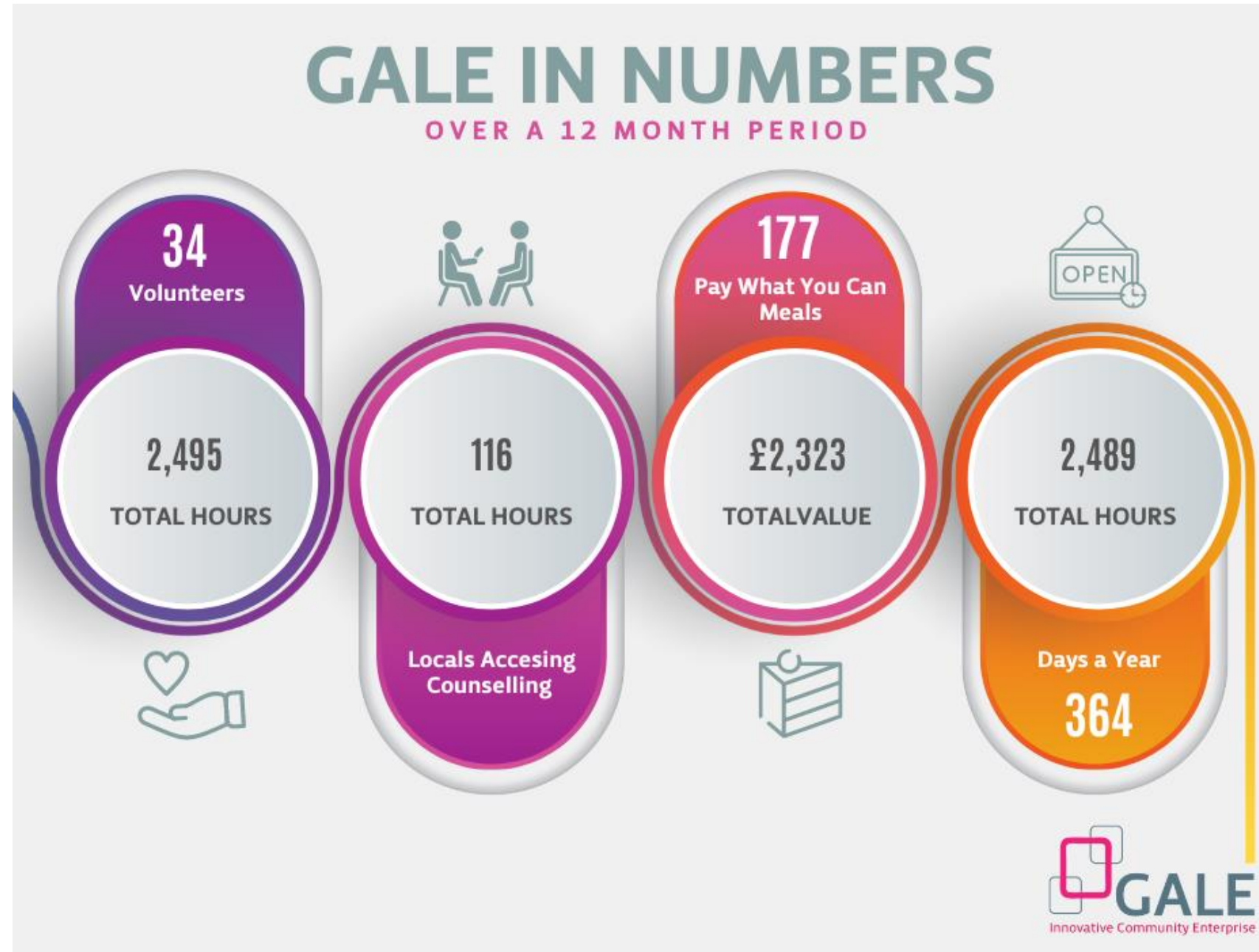
GALE
Contribution
to the
Local Economy

£340,499

Community Wealth Building

Goals

- Increase active citizenship, democracy and community empowerment
- Reduce loneliness and isolation and increase opportunities for community connections
- Increase access to affordable local services for local people



Goals

- Reduce seasonality – tourism
- Improve access to wellbeing and support services
- Strengthen the local economy – workforce culture

GALE IN NUMBERS

OVER A 12 MONTH PERIOD



Final thoughts?

- *If you measure money – that will drive you.*
- *Advice on what to stock – not all local stock as people need a range of products so we do compromise. Change throughout the year*
- *For us café brings people in and shop generates income*
- *At GALE tourism money supports our projects – but we still need grant monies. Varies year on year.*