ANDY

The library has been a twinkle in people's eyes for a long time. It’s taken place over three and a half years from when we started the idea to actually delivering the building, the first community-owned, community-run library in Scotland. In the early days, I thought there was a great opportunity here for a student project.

SHANAYA

My name is Shanaya Wagh, I'm from Mumbai, India, and I'm studying MLitt Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde. I was interested in the library because I love books and I thought I've never been behind the scenes or behind the desk at a library. This library had just been built and they wanted someone to document how the library was made. So my audience would be any community in Scotland who would want to do what Strathblane has done.

ANDY

She’s written it up in a form which we can not only tell people about the history of the building, but also inform other people in other villages, other communities who might say, oh we would like something like this.

SHANAYA

The job of a creative writer or copywriter is to make material which is not just understandable, but fun. And that was really beautiful to see how they have come together and made this place.

ANDY

Shanaya was enthusiastic and brought in a lot of skills of which we could immediately see the benefit.

SHANAYA

It was not just about communication and planning. I also learned research skills documenting and organising all this big data that I had and then being able to put it down in a way that somebody else can read it, enjoy reading it and understand it.

ANDY

Students bring an awful lot of potential to these kind of projects. But more emerged than I ever imagined would.