



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- > 2017/18 Annual Report
- > Join our Friends
- > Kop Hill Climb fund
- > Impact story
- > Event news
- > Trustee vacancies

## £5 MILLION BOOST TO THAMES

### VALLEY CHARITIES

Small local charities across the Thames Valley have received almost £5 million from four community foundations following a record breaking year. Heart of Bucks, Milton Keynes, Berkshire and Oxfordshire community foundations are celebrating this great achievement.

The funding is a lifeline to grassroots charitable organisations to help them to tackle problems across the Thames Valley. The region is considered to be well off however there are areas of deprivation throughout. Community foundations are working hard to make sure that nobody gets left behind.

Between the four foundations over 650 groups were supported in 2017–18. With funding totalling £4,875,000, promoting better mental health, reducing loneliness and alleviating poverty.

One of the groups funded in Wycombe by Heart

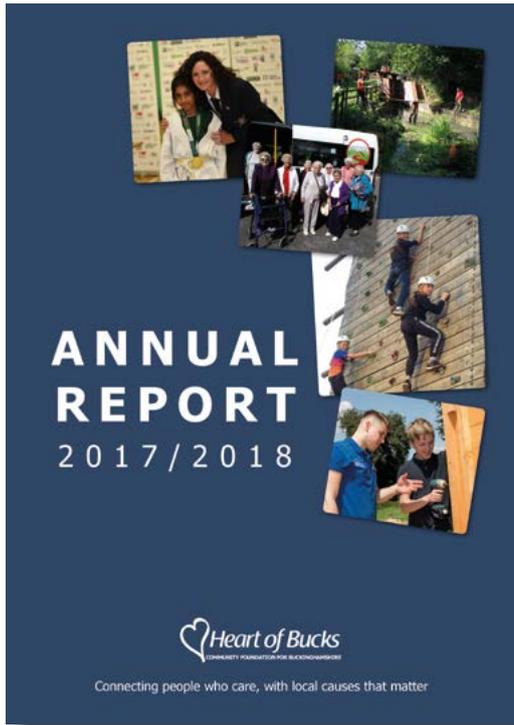
of Bucks was Family Support Group, a group run by St. Andrews Church that aims to strengthen struggling families living in poverty.

We awarded Family Support Group £5,000 in 2017–18 to assist with the continued provision of the support group, which includes a variety of sessions from parenting skills, money management, cookery and self-esteem. One of the service users, says: "I've been with the group for a year now and even though I am of another religious belief I have felt extremely welcomed, supported and encouraged by the whole of St. Andrew's team and the group itself.

"Family Support Group has given me some tools to manage my anxiety, given me a break once a week, and given me confidence in myself that I can learn new skills and that I have a voice."

Thames Valley community foundations have worked together on several projects. In 2017 we collectively awarded over £115,000 across the region from the Thames Valley Police's Proceeds of Crime fund.

# 2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT



Every year we support many wonderful organisations and our annual report offers a snapshot of some of the great work going on in Buckinghamshire, as well as documenting our achievements for the year and ambitions for the future.

We are grateful to our fund-holders, trustees, staff and community partners for their continued support. Heart of Bucks exists because of this support and the fantastic work that is carried out on the ground by the communities with whom we work.

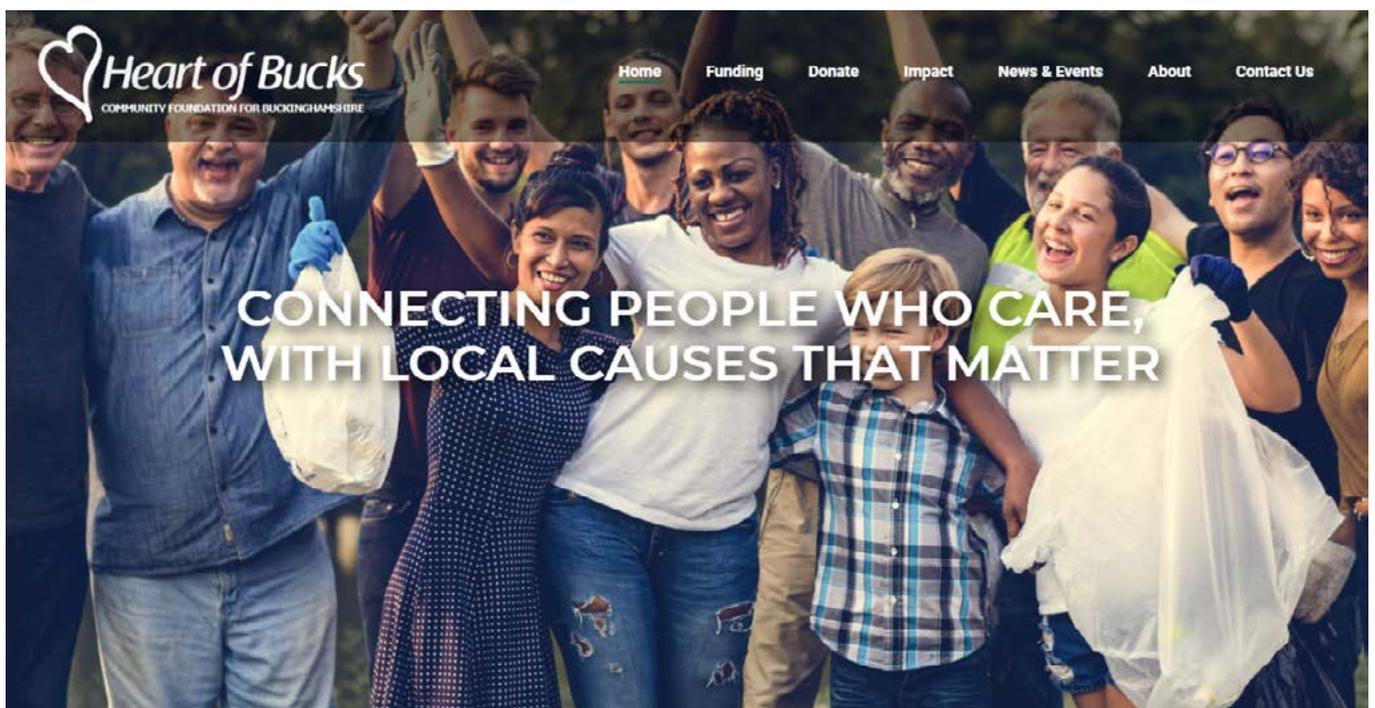
We hope you enjoy reading our annual report. You can [click here](#) to download a copy.

Alternatively you can email [marketing@heartofbucks.org](mailto:marketing@heartofbucks.org) to request a hard copy.

## NEW WEBSITE NOW LIVE!

We are very excited to announce that our brand new website is now live! We've worked hard to try and simplify our funding process and to improve our communication with our supporters through more news, events and impact stories.

Please [take a look at the new site](#) and let us know what you think!



# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & JOIN OUR FRIENDS



**Our most recent research identified that disability plays a key role in whether or not someone living in Buckinghamshire will be able to find work.**

Funding awarded to the charity Make a Special Kid Smile has enabled a specially trained dog, called Patience, and highly a skilled dog handler, to enhance the learning experiences of children with special educational needs.



*"Patience is brilliant for our son, he finds animals really calming and really cares about them. Patience is the perfect distraction after lunch to calm him down for class again, we couldn't ask for a better idea."*

**Our Friends' programme is a membership scheme. All Friends pledge a yearly or monthly amount by standing order and all pledges are pooled together into our Friends' fund.**

From the donations received, 50% will be used to support Heart of Bucks with our research and outreach work; this ensures funding reaches those who need it most and can use it effectively.

With this knowledge of the most pressing needs across the county, we will ensure that the other 50% of your donation is used to fund specific projects and the organisations that are working to overcome these identified challenges.

## **What does it mean to be a Friend?**

- » By combining donations into one fund, you will see the impact that can be made when we join together to tackle local needs
- » We will keep you up to date with the difference that's being made, including member news and a yearly Friends' Fund update
- » You will be invited to an annual Friends' event to meet beneficiaries of the Friend's fund and celebrate the year's achievements

### **Join our Friends today**

[Use our online application form](#)

[Download our 'print and return' form](#)

[Download our Friend of Heart of Bucks leaflet](#)

# KOP HILL CLIMB



## FUND NOW OPEN!

Heart of Bucks works in partnership with Kop Hill Climb to award grants once a year from the proceeds of the Kop Hill Climb Festival.

So far, over half a million pounds has been raised from the event and distributed by Heart of Bucks, making Kop Hill Climb the biggest charity fundraising event in Buckinghamshire!

Grants of up to £10,000 are available and can be used to support capital and revenue costs.

## PRIORITIES

- Activities/projects that will have a wider social impact for the Princes Risborough, Wycombe and Aylesbury areas and the communities which lie in between these towns.
- Activities/projects that clearly illustrate social inclusion or wider need
- Activities/projects working towards social inclusion in Princes Risborough

For more information and to apply, please [visit our website](#)

## BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S KOP HILL CLIMB FESTIVAL

Location: Kop Hill Road, Princes Risborough,  
HP27 0LA

Date: 15th/16th September

Time: Gates open 9am and close 6pm

Kop Hill Climb Festival is all about the noise, the crowds and the excitement!

From family fun to Ferraris, and dodgems to DeLoreans. The event includes loads of cars and bikes, plus great food, great music and great entertainment for the whole family.



For more information and to book your tickets please visit the [Kop Hill Climb website](#)

# IMPACT STORY

## THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Horses Helping People were awarded a grant of £3,780, which enabled them to provide weekly therapeutic horsemanship sessions for Year 8 students from Pebblebrook School.

The students took part in a range of activities according to their ability and aptitude. These included taking care of the horses, learning about horse behaviour, and building partnerships with the horses.

The students were able to experience a different type of learning environment where activities are able to be person-led and fun - often not feeling like learning at all.

Time spent in the natural world was calming for the students, which helped them to cope with



the stresses and demands of being in a more structured school environment.

The staff who accompanied the students also commented on how calm they felt after the visits, and also how useful it was to see the students in a different setting, as it often highlighted aspects of their personalities that weren't revealed at school.



### CASE STUDY

'Kyle' finds school life difficult, and often finds it hard to concentrate, which leads to challenging behaviour in class, and disruption for his classmates.

When Kyle attended Horses Helping People, we discovered that he has a curious and lively mind, as well as a need to be physically active.

His practical nature meant he was very happy to get stuck into jobs such as mucking out. He could see the physical results in the work he did, and we would always thank him for his work, which helped his self-esteem to grow.

After Kyle's set of sessions finished, we didn't see him for a while, but the school asked if he could return for more sessions as he was having some problems which were impacting on his behaviour in school.

Although he initially returned with a negative and rather despondent attitude, we retained our belief in his abilities and were able to support him to lead some activities for the new students, which led to a return in his self-belief that he could be a constructive and helpful member of the team.

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS

## **ANNUAL GOLF DAY RAISES OVER £6,000**

This year the Heart of Bucks annual golf day took place at Denham Golf Club. Teams from across the county came together for the friendly competition which raised over £6,000.

Through events such as this, our aim is to raise funds which help to assist local projects and the organisations behind them.

Thank you to all who joined us for this fantastic day, or supported the event through sponsorship, raffle prizes or freebies for our goody bags. Together we can continue to support those striving to make Buckinghamshire a better place to live.

Congratulations go to this year's winners,



Connells (pictured), very closely followed by Allan Janes and Lockhart Garratt.

Next year's event will take place on Thursday 23rd May 2019. Please contact us to register your interest.

## **£23,000 IN FUNDING FROM OUR VENETIAN BALL!**



Pictured: Trudi Scrivener (HoB trustee) and guests

Our summer ball is a celebration involving our friends, donors and new supporters and aims to raise funds to continue supporting great charities and community groups here in Buckinghamshire.

For one night only our guests were transported to Venice, as the sun shone down on us at the spectacular Hall Barn Estate in Old Beaconsfield.

We're delighted to report that the event raised over £23,000. All the money raised will be awarded in grants to local organisations doing great work and enabling communities to thrive.

Special thank you's go to our ball committee; Linda Cannon Clegg, Gabby Harman and Sarah Vickers for making the event possible and the many people and businesses who supported the event.

# TRUSTEE VACANCIES



We are currently looking for up to three innovative and strategic thinkers to join our friendly and well-established board of trustees. You will live or work in Buckinghamshire and be committed to improving the life opportunities of people in our county.

To complement our existing board we are particularly looking for people with:

**Legal expertise**  
**Knowledge and skills around strategic marketing/messaging**  
**People with experience in philanthropy/donor care**

If you could bring your skills to our board of trustees and help us to extend our reach, impact and influence we would love to hear from you.

[Apply now!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FUNDING CONSULTATIONS:

All funding consultation dates are now available on our website:

[heartofbucks.org/events](http://heartofbucks.org/events)

#### WYCOMBE DISTRICT

Monday 6th August  
Wycombe Museum

#### CHILTERN DISTRICT

Wednesday 26th September  
Chiltern District Council Offices

By appointment only. To book please email [grants@heartofbucks.org](mailto:grants@heartofbucks.org)