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HEART OF BUCKS HOLDS ITS FIRST EVER ONLINE ANNUAL SUPPORTERS RECEPTION

With the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, it was sadly not possible to hold our Annual Supporters Reception as we normally would. We therefore decided to embrace the opportunity to open up the festivities to a bigger audience this year.

Our first ever Online Annual Supporters Reception took place on Monday 12th October. The event took place on our social media channels and opened with the launch of our Annual Report 2019/2020. The report details our achievements and highlights for the past financial year, complete with impact stories from funding beneficiaries in our six 'impact categories'.

The online event next featured our Online Annual Supporters Reception video, which gave some insight into the new format this year before introducing speeches from our Chairman, the Countess Howe DL, and our CEO, Henry Allmand.

Of course, the speeches addressed the uncertain times in which we currently live and the way that Heart of Bucks has responded to the pandemic.

"The end of the year saw the Coronavirus pandemic take hold in the UK, and cause disruption and challenge across the board. I am proud to say that Heart of Bucks responded quickly to the emergency,

channelling emergency grants where they were desperately needed", said Henry.

The Countess Howe also took this opportunity to thank our supporters for their continued engagement with us in her final year as Chairman. "The recruitment process for my successor is well under way", she shared, "and I am very pleased to say that I shall not be leaving the organisation entirely when I step down from the Chair... [as] I will have the honour of holding the role of President of Heart of Bucks".

Finally, we announced the winners of our two awards: The People's Choice Award 2020 and the Coronavirus Community award **[details on page 2]**.

To read our Annual Report 2019/2020, visit:
heartofbucks.org/research

To watch the Online Annual Supporters Reception video, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZsIjSZH9Vk>



ANIMAL ANTIKS & RED KITE RADIO WIN ONLINE SUPPORTERS RECEPTION AWARDS



As part of this year's Online Annual Supporters Reception, we held an online public vote for two awards in the weeks leading up to the event. The People's Choice Award was an award we established last year, encouraging our supporters to vote for a group whose work in the community and impact on the local area makes Bucks a better place to live. The nominees this year were Animal Antiks, Chiltern Rangers, Marlow Museum, Startup and Youth Concern.

We also held a vote for an award unique to this year and all of its challenges. The Coronavirus Community Award encouraged people to vote for the

group they support or admire who have adapted to the pandemic to support isolated, underprivileged and vulnerable people in our community at this very uncertain time. The nominees were The Bernwode Community Bus, Buckinghamshire Disability Service, Buckinghamshire Mind, One Can Trust Food Bank and Red Kite Radio.

We were delighted to end the online event with the announcement that Animal Antiks won The People's Choice Award 2020 and Red Kite Radio won The Coronavirus Community Award. Both winners will be receiving £500 prize funding.

OUR WINTER WARMTH APPEAL LAUNCHES FOR 2020

The Heart of Bucks Winter Warmth campaign is encouraging people who receive the government 'Winter Fuel Payment' and are able to pay their heating bills to donate it to help vulnerable people keep warm this winter. Any donation from anyone, however small, can have a big impact on a struggling person or family this winter.

It has been a difficult year for all of us, but for vulnerable people in Bucks the colder weather is going to pose an even bigger problem than in previous years. With many out of work, working reduced hours or otherwise struggling financially, heating their home is going to be a challenge. For many, it won't even be an option.

Winter Warmth helps vulnerable people across Buckinghamshire who struggle to keep warm in the cold months, including older people, lone parents with children under the age of five and households requiring additional heating because of a household member with a disability. The recipients not only receive a one-off grant to help them keep warm, but also receive support, resources and guidance for Heart of Bucks'

Community Advocates. In addition to granting money towards heating bills, donated funds are often spent on warm winter clothing and items to keep warm in the home: something as small as a hot water bottle or a kettle.

You can donate online at:
totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/winterwarmth



Winter fuel payment. Don't need it?
Donate it.
WINTER WARMTH

CHILTERN RANGERS ENGAGE AROUND 1,000 VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT



Project: Coaching volunteers and engaging children of keyworkers to look after local natural habitats

Grant: £3,000

Fund: NET Coronavirus Appeal

Chiltern Rangers is an organisation working in Bucks and the wider Chilterns, providing practical habitat management to enhance the Chiltern's habitats through conservation, education and community engagement.

When the coronavirus pandemic began in the UK and lockdown was enforced, Chiltern Rangers' environmental work was brought to a halt in order to keep their volunteers safe. With the help of their £3,000 grant from the NET Coronavirus Appeal, they have been able to bring back their volunteers step by step to take part in community projects with an environmental focus.

Chiltern Rangers' funding was used to induct, coach and build the confidence of their volunteers. They put measures in place to ensure a set number of volunteers attended each session in order to keep a social distance, enabling them to safely coach over 380 under-18 volunteers and 600 adult volunteers between 19th May and 18th October. In total, the volunteers contributed 2,400 hours of time to improving Buckinghamshire's woodlands, rivers, meadows, parks and community spaces. They have also re-started their Forest Ranger

School Programmes with 200 children enjoying learning outdoors already.

The funding was also used to buy extra tools to ensure the safety of the volunteers, including a mobile handwashing kit, antiviral sprays, and gloves and goggles for volunteers to keep.

In July, Chiltern Rangers were able to support the children of keyworkers, with 18 children from Castlefield School joining Chiltern Rangers on a 'Be a Junior Ranger' session as a reward for being at school during the lockdown. The children worked in their 'bubbles', litter picking in Castlefield Woods (clearing the woods of 30 bags of rubbish) and river kick sampling in waders at Desborough Recreation Ground.

More recently, Chiltern Rangers have re-launched their 'Green Thursday' morning volunteer sessions with extra rakes being bought from the fund for meadow raking. They have also partnered with Barnados to work with young people involved in their Article 12 Youth Group and Be Safe projects.

"Before the day, I didn't think it would be that fun but it really was. I loved looking at the river minibeasts and learning about caring for them but the best bit was the litter pick, doing something that really mattered. My legs didn't hurt THAT much after all the climbing!"

– Year 4 'Junior Ranger'

OUR CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Coronavirus Stabilisation Funds

With the easing of the lockdown, and with organisations taking the first steps to return to a “new normal” way of working, we are expanding our coronavirus funding offer to enable not-for-profit organisations, hard hit by the impact of the pandemic, to start to stabilise their financial and operational position and move towards recovery. Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

Application deadline: Ongoing



Green Schools Fund

This fund is open to all primary and secondary schools in the Aylesbury Vale area, awarding grants to support environmental projects initiated by the school's students. Grants are expected to be up to £1,500, although larger grants may be considered where significant added value or matched funding is demonstrated in the application.

EOI deadline: 9th December **Application deadline:** 20th January 2021



Green Community Fund

This fund is open to voluntary and community groups in the Aylesbury Vale area, awarding grants for projects designed to improve the environment and/or public spaces for the benefit of AVDC residents. Grants are expected to be up to £2,500. Larger grants may be considered where significant added value or matched funding is demonstrated in the application.

EOI deadline: 9th December **Application deadline:** 20th January 2021



Flood Recovery & Awareness Fund

Grants can be used to support capital, revenue and project costs and expenditure must relate to flood damage/prevention or awareness in the form of training or education. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for by Bucks voluntary and community groups that are charitable in purpose and town/parish councils.

EOI deadline: 9th December **Application deadline:** 20th January 2021



Rectory

Grants from this corporate fund are available to voluntary and community groups that are charitable in purpose to support capital and project costs. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to groups working for the benefit of residents living within Aylesbury Vale and helping those most in need in the community.

EOI deadline: 9th December **Application deadline:** 20th January 2021



Youth Bank

Buckinghamshire Youth Bank primarily funds activities and projects that benefit vulnerable young people aged 12-19 years (and up to 25 years for young people with disabilities). The fund aims to give young people a voice within the community and young people from a wide range of backgrounds have an opportunity to be part of this panel, which offers grants of up to £3,000.

EOI deadline: 9th December **Application deadline:** 20th January 2021

Other available funds...



Moving our Community Fund 2020

Sport England have provided Leap with funding to distribute to community organisations who support people to be active. Most grants are up to £1000.

For more information and details on applying, visit:

www.leapwithus.org.uk/funding/moving-our-community-fund-2020

For more information on any of these funds and to apply, visit heartofbucks.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant

KOP HILL CLIMB HOLDS VIRTUAL EVENT



We weren't the only ones moving a yearly event online this year. With COVID-19 restrictions cancelling the 2020 Kop Hill Climb, the team behind the event decided to move the event to social media to raise money for the charities they support.

Part of their 'every pound is precious' campaign, Kop Hill Climb's virtual event took place on Sunday 20th September.

The event involved an array of images and videos for car and bike fanatics, from a selection of fantastic images taken at the hill climb throughout the years, to videos of how the team of over 300 volunteers make the event happen, to a hair-raising point of

view video so viewers could take the virtual driver's seat!

Some famous faces even made an appearance, with TV mechanic Fuzz Townsend, antique expert Eric Knowles, former rally driver Paddy Hopkirk MBE and presenter and Kop Hill Patron Mike Bushell all making a video appearance.

The virtual event has raised over £1,700 so far, and you can see the event and make a donation by visiting the Kop Hill Climb Facebook page.

The team also announced that they plan to hold the event next year across the weekend of the 18th and 19th September 2021.

£73k BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CAPACITY FUND GRANT IS AWARDED

The Buckinghamshire Wellbeing Capacity Fund offered a one-off grant of £73,000 to a charity or community group to deliver a holistic project to support wellbeing across the county and make Buckinghamshire's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic sustainable.

The grant, funded jointly by Heart of Bucks, The Clare Foundation and the Rothschild Foundation, was awarded to The Oasis Partnership, a Bucks charity that provides social and psychological support services to improve health and wellbeing.

The Oasis Partnership will be using this funding to run their 'Listen, Learn and Adapt' project; a collaboration of five Buckinghamshire charities, working with BAME communities, enabling organisations to become more inclusive and diverse and supporting improved community engagement.

Heart of Bucks CEO Henry Allmand said, "Heart of Bucks are pleased to have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with our partners to establish this larger funding opportunity for the non-profit sector in Bucks. The calibre of applications was extremely high, and we are grateful for the opportunity to consider such a wide range of excellent potential initiatives. Congratulations to The Oasis Partnership on their successful bid, which aims to transform engagement with BAME communities in Bucks".

We received four excellent applications, all of which brought together a number of partners providing innovative ideas for supporting local people.

We would like to thank our independent panel who gave significant time and expertise to the consideration of these applications.

NEW COMMUNITY INVESTOR FUND MAKES IT EASIER FOR CORPORATE DONORS TO GIVE



We have set up the new 'Community Investor Fund' to make charitable giving for businesses straightforward and simple.

The new fund, set up with five local founding businesses, provides an essential link for the local business community into the non-profit sector.

One of the considerations for businesses making charitable donations is that they may want to give back to their local community but don't have the resources to set up their own fund or scheme. Understanding the local charitable sector and the extent of local need is essential in order to ensure charitable donations go to the places that need it most - and this is where Heart of Bucks steps in.

Our Community Investor Fund enables

businesses to support the community where they work, safe in the knowledge that Heart of Bucks has the local knowledge to maximise the funds and the impact that they make in Bucks.

When a business puts a sum of money into the Community Investor Fund, they are able to help the local community both now and in the future. The total is divided into money that can be used for immediate charitable grants, so that a positive impact is made soon after a contribution, and also money that is invested to support the Bucks organisations, community groups and charities that need help longer term.

This has been a hugely challenging time for Bucks-based not-for-profit organisations, who have been working harder than ever before to support the vulnerable people in our county throughout COVID-19. They need support, and Heart of Bucks is able to facilitate the distribution of the generous contributions of the business community.

To find out more about the Community Investor Fund, contact Henry Allmand at: henry@heartofbucks.org.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW AMBASSADOR



Liz Barter
Ambassador for Isolation & Disadvantage

We are delighted to announce our new Ambassador for Isolation and Disadvantage, Liz Barter.

Liz works for the Care Quality Commission in the mental health hospitals team and is an independent

visitor to local registered childrens' homes, having previously been a trustee of Oxford Homeless Pathways and a listening volunteer with the Samaritans.

Liz has experience of leading and developing services for a range of vulnerable and socially excluded people, including ten years in London drug and alcohol treatment and time as a senior manager and programme lead for Public Health England. More recently, she has managed large contracts delivering support services to homeless people, people with learning disabilities and women escaping domestic violence. As an active trustee of Bucks charity the Oasis Partnership, Liz is closely connected to the reality of unmet need in the local area, in particular rough sleeping, and sees the work of small charities as vital to changing lives in a real and immediate way.

To see all of our ambassadors and read their profiles, head to heartofbucks.org/ambassadors.

If you would like to apply to be an impact ambassador, email henry@heartofbucks.org.