

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020



 **Heart of Bucks**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Connecting people who care with local causes that matter

Kindly sponsored by



"TD Group are committed and connected to our local community and we are proud to be sponsoring the work of the Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire this year".

- Anthony Priest, Managing Director

tdgroup.co.uk

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About us

Heart of Bucks is the community foundation for the county; a charitable funding organisation that awards grants and loans to local causes, charities and community groups.

Part of UK Community Foundations (UKCF), the national network of community foundations, we are one of 46 foundations in the country and one of the largest non-statutory funders in Buckinghamshire.

We have a unique understanding of the needs of Buckinghamshire and offer the easiest route for local individuals and businesses to give back to the community they love. Through research and outreach work we ensure that funding reaches groups and charities who need it most and can use it effectively.

Heart of Bucks works in partnership with other Buckinghamshire-based charities and organisations to build a better quality of life for all.

Every three years Heart of Bucks undergoes an independent quality accreditation as part of our membership of UKCF. We are also registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

What is a Community Foundation?

A community foundation is a charitable funding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people in a defined local geographic area.

We bring together the financial resources of individuals, families and businesses to support not-for-profits in the community.

Coronavirus funding

The coronavirus outbreak has had a huge impact on our local community, as indeed it has on a global scale.

The 2019-2020 financial year sits in a very unique and unprecedented space, starting in a very different place to the locked-down world in which it ended.

This Annual Report captures our work in the Buckinghamshire community before the enormous impact of the coronavirus was felt by local charities, organisations, community groups and individuals. We therefore would like to give an overview of our work in 2020 to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community, which will be fully reported in next year's Annual Report.

In March 2020, Heart of Bucks launched the Bucks Coronavirus Response Appeal to provide emergency funding to people and charities in Buckinghamshire who were most affected and vulnerable as a result of the outbreak. As a member organisation of UKCF, we were also the local distribution partner in Buckinghamshire for funds allocated to the county from the National Emergencies Trust (NET) Coronavirus Appeal.

In total, Heart of Bucks distributed...

£396,240

in emergency grants in response to COVID-19.



**Bucks
Coronavirus
Response
Appeal**

**£86, 819
to charities**

**£32,587
to individuals
and families**



**NATIONAL
EMERGENCIES
TRUST**

**£276,834
to charities**

Heart of Bucks are proud to be part of a strategic funding group together with Buckinghamshire Council, The Clare Foundation, The Rothschild Foundation and Leap, which as of August 2020 had distributed over £1 million in grants to support local volunteering organisations, community groups, charities and individuals.

Continuing with emergency funding but with sights set on the future, we have now set up the Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund. With the easing of the lockdown, and with organisations taking the first steps to return to a "new normal" way of working, this fund expands our 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.



**Bucks
Coronavirus
Stabilisation
Fund**

Keep up to date with our coronavirus funding

Visit **heartofbucks.org** and click on the **COVID-19** tab

Read our latest coronavirus funding impact stories: **heartofbucks.org/category/coronavirus-funding-impact-stories/**



Chairman's message



As this is my last message for the Annual report before I step down as Chairman, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past 10 years and the extraordinary achievement of the Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire making over £8 million in grants since its inception.

The first hurdle was, and to some extent continues to be, convincing the residents of Buckinghamshire that the Community Foundation model plays an important role in the county, not only in making targeted grants but in acting as a catalyst for social change and providing a trusted and credible place for our generous benefactors to lodge their funds.

Working with three successive Chief Executives, huge progress has been made; increasing our endowment and making a significant difference to our communities. The staff team have delivered our vision with commitment, dedication and good humour. It has always been a pleasure to share with the office team the successes and struggles of everyday

life at the coalface! My Board of Trustees has evolved and changed and have been effective at holding the Chief Executive and the staff team to account. Thank you to every member past and current for their invaluable contribution to the working of the charity, and for giving me their wholehearted support.

I can't let this report go without speaking a little about the extraordinary events which took over in the last month of the year, March 2020; lockdown and the consequent aftermath. The voluntary sector has been very hard hit but we have been able to coordinate a forward looking strategy: distributing funds from the National Emergencies Trust and working with the National Lottery and the newly formed Buckinghamshire Council we have been pivotal in shaping the crisis response in the county. My sincere thanks go to businesses and individuals who have enabled us to make such an effective response.

Finally, I would like to express how much I have enjoyed being part of the organisation and what an honour it has been to Chair it for the past 8 years. Happily I won't be leaving completely as in my new role as Lord Lieutenant of the County I will become President of Heart of Bucks.

Elizabeth Howe

The Countess Howe DL

CEO's message



It gives me great pleasure to be writing my first message for the Heart of Bucks Annual Report. During an eventful year for the Foundation, it was a very special moment for me personally when, in September 2019, the Board offered me the opportunity to work with them to grow and develop the organisation over the coming years.

I joined the Foundation at a time of considerable change for Buckinghamshire. This was the last year of a two-tier local government system. As we closed out the year, we said goodbye to our former partner organisations, the district and county councils, and warmly welcomed the new Buckinghamshire Council. Along with so many local people, I share a great sense of optimism about the evolving Buckinghamshire identity. We are experiencing a rare opportunity to further enhance Buckinghamshire's position as a leading economic and civic place in the UK.

I have been immediately impressed with the efficiency of the team and the Board at Heart of Bucks. We have together already implemented a new corporate recognition scheme, the Community Investor scheme, secured significant donations to support the local community, and established several new funding programmes and long-term partnerships. I look forward to further growing the impact and scale of our work in the years to come.

The end of my first year at the Foundation saw the Coronavirus outbreak develop into an international crisis. At home in Bucks, we were able to play a crucial role in the local response; opening the Buckinghamshire Coronavirus Response Appeal in March 2020, and immediately providing fast and accessible funding to the local non-profit sector.

Thank you for your support for our charitable work. I've particularly enjoyed meeting so many of our partners and stakeholders this year. Without the interest and involvement of so many of our supporters, we simply would not exist. It is especially important that during times of adversity and challenge that our community rallies together. We have seen so many examples of generosity from our donors and supporters this year that have enabled our work to continue, that I am filled with optimism for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report, detailing just some of the ways we have been able to make an impact in 2019/20.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Henry Allmand'.

Henry Allmand

2019/2020 figures

£2.1m

income
this year

£8.5m

awarded
since 2000

£7.3m

long-term
investments

£15,429

in direct grants
to individuals
and families

£455,164

awarded in
grants

£3,282

average grant
amount

134

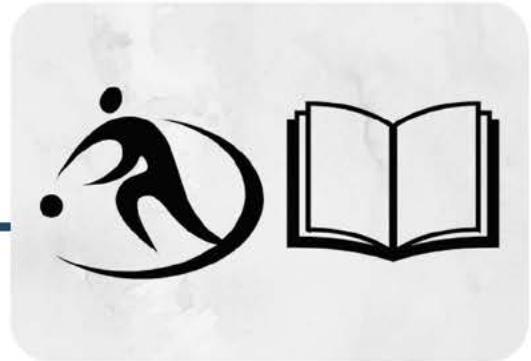
projects
funded

2019/2020 highlights



May 2019

We raised in excess of £7,000 at our Annual Golf Day fundraiser at the beautiful Denham Golf Club.



We distributed the first grants from the Julian Budd Kids in Sport Fund and the Olney British School Charity Fund.



July 2019 & February 2020

We held two successful 'Seeing is Believing' tours, where our Chairman and staff visit sites of our funding beneficiaries with those interested in supporting our work.



September 2019

Henry Allmand is appointed as our new CEO.



October 2019

At our Annual Supporters Reception, Denham United Ladies FC win our first ever People's Choice Award.



We extended the scope of our Winter Warmth funding by working with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group and Wycombe Homeless Connection to ensure some of the most vulnerable homeless people in Bucks have sleeping bags and warm clothes.

Grants across Bucks

From April 2020, the four districts of Buckinghamshire were dissolved to make way for a new unitary authority under Buckinghamshire Council. This will therefore be the last of our Annual Reports to break down impact by district.

Aylesbury Vale

61
projects

totalling
£203k

Chiltern

13
projects

totalling
£49k

Wycombe

36
projects

totalling
£110k

South Bucks

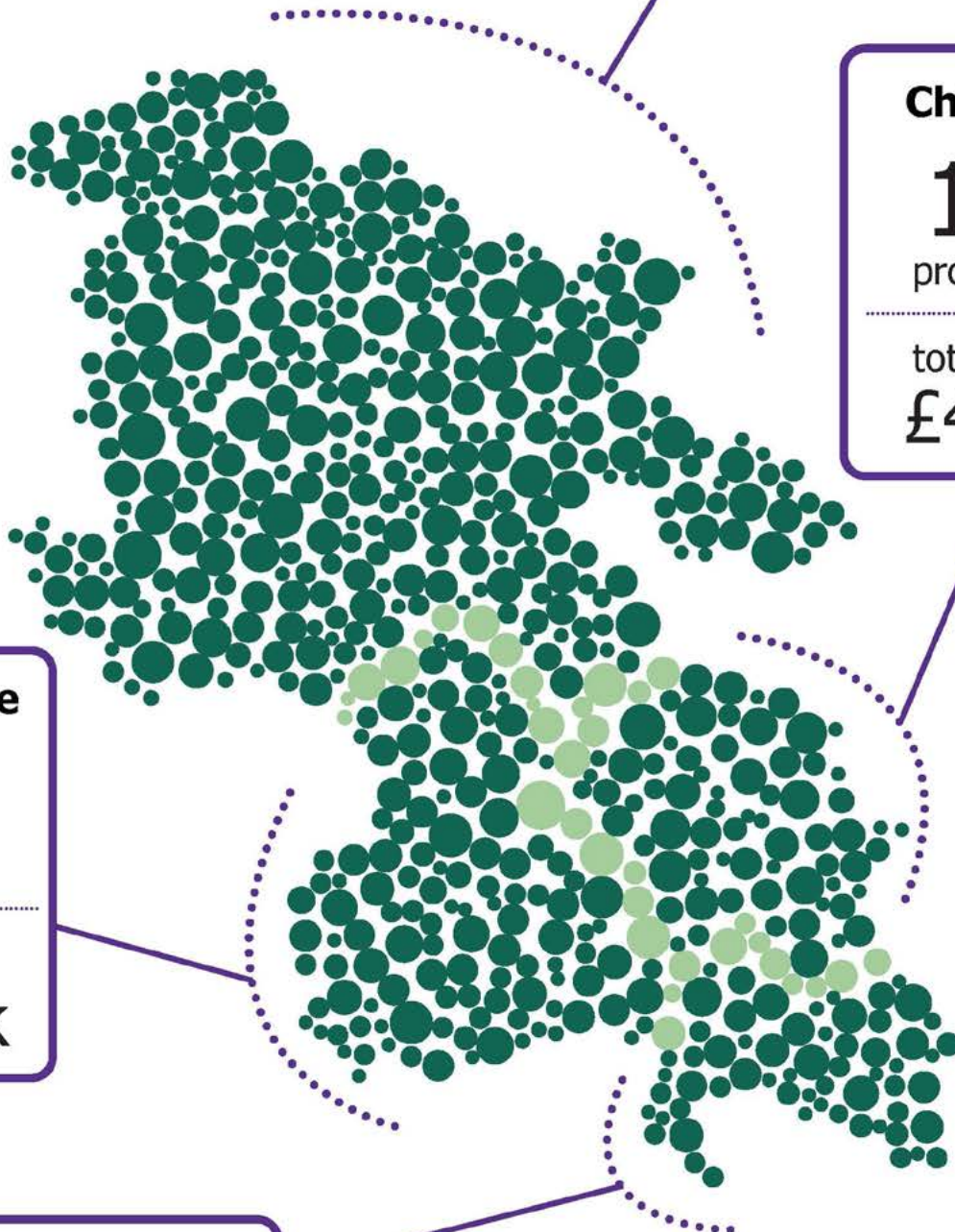
6
projects

totalling
£14k

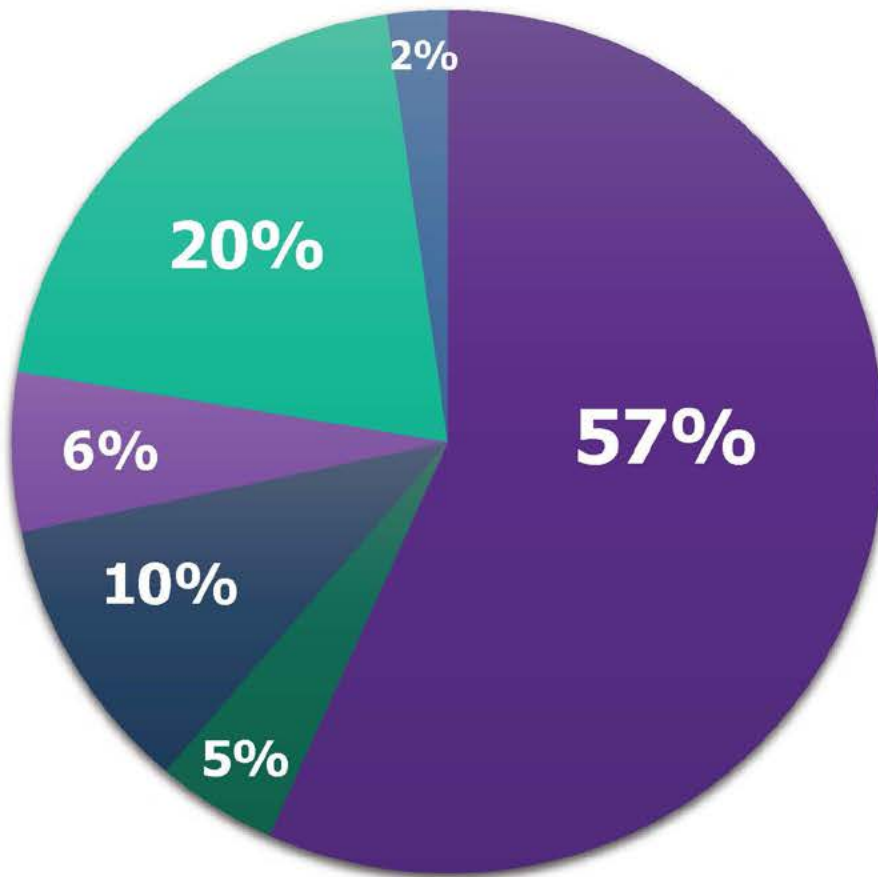
Work across multiple districts

18
projects

totalling
£63k



Projects by impact category



Physical & mental health,
wellbeing & safety



Community cohesion



The arts, culture & heritage



Isolation & disadvantage



Education & employment



The environment & public
spaces



Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

Projects completed: 76

Amount awarded: £242,557.68

Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Project: Purchasing a life-saving portable blood warming machine

Grant: £3,000

On-the-spot blood transfusions have been proven to significantly improve patient survival, but it's vital that air ambulance crews store blood at the correct temperature to make these life-saving transfusions possible.

This grant enabled Thames Valley Air Ambulance to purchase a new, state-of-the-art piece of equipment called a 'QinFlow'. Blood and Fresh Frozen Plasma must be stored at 4 degrees centigrade, but before it is administered to a patient it needs to be warmed to body temperature (37 degrees).

The QinFlow is the only portable blood warming machine on the market that is capable of warming fluids from any input temperature to 37 degrees in 11 seconds, enabling immediate transfusion and therefore increasing chances of survival.



Wheelpower

Project: Running 'Feel Inspired' sports camps for disabled children and young people

Grant: £3,000



WheelPower sports camps give disabled children the chance to experience wheelchair sport in a safe, engaging environment that caters for their individual needs, abilities and interests. With the help of this grant, Wheelpower were able to deliver two two-day sports camps for, supporting 192 disabled children and young people.

Each sports camp offered 10 different sports; table tennis, shooting, basketball, fencing, cricket, tennis, boccia, archery, badminton and zone hockey.

"As my turn came up for wheelchair cricket, I just clammed up – I got so fearful... It was a real challenge for me to get involved, but the coaches were so encouraging and spotted instantly that I was struggling. They gave me the confidence to know that it was the taking part that counts".

- Kaela, participant

Youth Enquiry Service

Project: Contribution to core costs to enable free counselling

Grant: £5,000

Youth Enquiry Service (YES) is a charity based in High Wycombe that offers free and confidential support and counselling to 13-25 year olds.



With around 700 young people using their services in a year, and demand ever-increasing, YES applied for funding to support their core costs in order to keep the drop-in centre open and for training costs to bring in and support more volunteers.

Their counselling service has helped many young people to overcome lower level mental health issues, preventing their problems escalating to the point where they need long-term support. This provides young people with the tools to manage issues surrounding their development, such as low self esteem, anxiety and depression.

Animal Antiks

Project: 'Fun on the Farm' learning sessions during the school holidays

Grant: £4,940

Animal Antiks work with children and young adults who are either out of main-stream education or have learning difficulties to build their skills and confidence. This grant enabled them to run 16 animal-assisted learning sessions during the school holidays for various local groups and organisations.

The groups supported included Florries, Child Bereavement UK, Aylesbury Vale National Autistic Society, GRASPS autism support group, Puzzle Centre and Quarrendon Friday lunch club. Each session lasted two hours and took place on their 250 acre farm in North Marston with their large animal family of alpacas, horses, ponies, donkeys, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, sheep and dogs.

Through this project, Animal Antiks supported over 200 people. Their 'Fun on the Farm' sessions included activities such as grooming, feeding, animal encounters, walking the animals and collecting eggs, as well as craft activities and a wheelbarrow agility course. They also ran 'walk and talk' sessions, predominantly aimed at adults, which included an opportunity to meet the animals and then go for an hour's walk around the farm with some of them.



"It's a fantastic place with kind and understanding staff. It's nice to relax and let your kids enjoy themselves in their own way".

– Anonymous beneficiary



The arts, culture & heritage

Projects completed: 6

Amount awarded: £17,542

Young People's Puppet Theatre

Project: Teaching students how to make and use puppets in preparation for a full puppet show to their schoolmates and teachers

Grant: £3,540

Young People's Puppet Theatre (YPPT) promotes puppetry in schools as a means of getting young people engaged in the arts, performance and group work that often doesn't form part of the standard curriculum.

YPPT's projects centre around building confidence, resilience and social skills, often with children who have educational needs or who have other disadvantages, for example difficulty speaking the English language or living in poverty.



With this grant, YPPT were able to deliver puppet-making sessions to Stony Dean School, a special educational needs school in Amersham, which culminated in a final performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The grant helped fund all the required art materials for the making of the puppets and sets, the provision of specialist equipment including staging and lighting using professional-grade materials, transport for the materials and equipment to the school and script royalties.

The project has made a huge difference – and not only to the 32 pupils involved in the creation of the show. Staff were amazed at the level of concentration and focus of both the performers

and the audience (roughly 120 students) and the performances were incredibly well received.

In addition to the immense confidence boost brought about by the project, students were also given the opportunity to gain either a Bronze or a Silver level Arts Award for their work towards the final show. The Arts Award is a qualification offered by Trinity Guildhall and is a means of certifying the skills gained by the students during the project. Many of the students at Stony Dean struggle to gain academic qualifications due to their disabilities and so this was a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate their achievement.

"From the moment the narrators took to the stage I was overcome with many emotions... the pride I had when the pupils were delivering the language of Shakespeare, the engagement from the audience, many of which have attention deficit and short term memory issues, all of whom listened politely and enjoyed the performance. The professionalism and the professional feel the production had, made me feel like I was sat in the theatre. It blew me away!"

– Neil Strain, Head Teacher at Stony Dean School

Head2Head Theatre

Project: A production of 'Toad on the Road'

Grant: £875



'Toad on the Road' is a Head2Head Theatre adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows', a touring production that takes children with disabilities and their families on a journey of fun and discovery.

With this grant, Head2Head Theatre were able to extend their 36-day tour of the production across schools in London and the South East to include a two-day tour at Booker Park School in Aylesbury, a large primary special school for children with a broad diversity of complex needs.

The days offered the children a relaxed introduction to theatre, with an interactive walkabout performance of Toad on the Road, a visit to the sensory tent and additional games and craft activities, followed by a picnic lunch. In addition to providing a fun and educational activity for the children, the sessions also encouraged interaction between families, in turn helping to extend their support networks.

Marlow Museum Centre Project

Project: Running 'The Story of Marlow' exhibition for the museum's 10th anniversary

Grant: £1,000

This grant enabled Marlow Museum to mark the milestone of their 10th anniversary by repairing and redecorating the museum to make way for a new exhibition called The Story of Marlow. The exhibition aimed to make the museum more appealing to all age groups and to present the history of Marlow in a clearer and more interesting way, to both locals and visitors from around the world.

As part of the project of telling local stories, Marlow Museum created information panels, wall hanging flip displays a video of local people talking about Marlow in the 20th Century, to form part of a video display of Marlow history.



"We invited a team of eight people to work on researching and producing the Story of Marlow exhibition. They came from the key partners we work with, such as the 2 archaeological societies, Marlow Library, the Marlow Society and so on. The library suggested we include a young man who was out of work but volunteering part time at the library.... [he] became really enthusiastic about the project..."

He clearly gained confidence and was proud of his achievement, bringing his mother to the launch party to see it. I think the experience helped him. I have since heard that he has been offered a permanent job at the library".

- Marlow Museum team member



Education & employment

Projects completed: 14

Amount awarded: £52,355

Startup

Project: Providing young women with coaching and workshops in life skills to improve future prospects and employability

Grant: £1,908

Startup is an organisation who support women whose lives have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System or who are seriously disadvantaged by social, economic and/or family circumstances.

With this grant, Startup ran a programme for young women in Aylesbury Vale and the Wycombe area. This consisted of an initial assessment with a specialist trainer and workshops in areas such as confidence and self-esteem, motivation, goal setting and action planning. The first part of the programme focused on setting personal goals, coaching and training, while the latter part focused on supporting the beneficiaries to reach their longer term aspirations.



Make a Special Kid Smile

Project: Keeping a school dog at Stocklake Park School

Grant: £4,500



This grant enabled students of Stocklake Park School, a special school for secondary ages, to have a furry friend in the form of Patience, the golden labrador, who stays at the school.

The grant contributed to the cost of having an expert dog handler who works full time in the school with the dog and the students. Make a Special Kid Smile have seen many benefits and evidence that this Animal Assisted Education is supporting students' learning, wellbeing and ongoing therapy.

The school dog handler and dog team support students to achieve personal objectives, including understanding safety in the community, personal care, confidence, responsibility, communication skills and social skills through one-to-one and group sessions based in school and the local community.

Volunteer It Yourself

Project: Teaching trade and building skills to unemployed and/or disengaged young people

Grant: £4,650



Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) challenges young people aged 14-24 to learn trade and employability skills through helping to fix local youth and community facilities in need of essential repairs and improvements.

This grant enabled 23 vulnerable and disadvantaged young people who are not in employment, education or training to develop new vocational skills and improve their work-readiness and employability prospects.

The project involved the young participants volunteering to construct and fit out a new build house in Waddesdon over a seven month period. The participants were mentored by a team of local professional tradespeople

and had the chance, if they wished, to work towards achieving an Entry Level 3 City & Guilds skills qualification. Of the 23 young people who participated in the project, 13 remained engaged throughout the entire seven-month project period and gained the City & Guilds qualification.

"VIY has meant I can make up for what I missed out on at school or college. It's also very motivating because you can help others and your community whilst helping yourself".

- Ben, participant

Action 4 Youth

Project: Running a personal development course for young people aged 16-17

Grant: £5,000

This grant enabled Action 4 Youth to run their 'Inspiration Programme' for 200 children from seven educational establishments across Buckinghamshire – Bucks College Group, Aspire Pupil Referral Unit, Milton Keynes Academy, Aylesbury Vale Academy, Bourne End School, Mandeville School and Bucks UTC.

The programme is designed to broaden the horizons, thinking and experience of the young people involved, making them aware of how our society works and helping them to understand their place in it. The programme runs for one academic year and covers a varied range of activities and educational trips.



"The project provided significant learning opportunities and life experiences to young people and also helped to develop key employability skills every young person will need in adult life".

- Nick Lund, Development Director at Action 4 Youth



Community cohesion

Projects completed: 8

Amount awarded: £39,206

Carers Bucks

Project: Assisting with rental costs to facilitate the running of 'Ownzone' rooms for young carers

Grant: 2 grants from different funds totalling £6,500

Carers Bucks is an independent charity that supports carers of all ages in Buckinghamshire, not only promoting the interest of carers but also working to advance public education regarding carers in the local area.

A carer is defined as someone without payment (other than the relevant benefits and allowances) who provides help to a partner, child, parent, relative, friend or neighbour who could not manage without their support. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.



Carers Bucks work closely with young carers, running clubs, group projects and providing 1-1 support for carers aged between 6 and 25. This grant helped to pay the lease for their 'Ownzone' rooms at their head office in Aylesbury: rooms that have been decorated and set up with the needs of young carers in mind.

For Carers Bucks, the 'Ownzone' rooms are crucial to young carers and the staff who support them. The rooms provide a welcoming and safe environment for the charity to hold workshops, activities and private meetings at times to suit the young people they support. They even offer a drink and snack to any young carers who have missed having breakfast.

The 'Ownzone' rooms and the workshops that take place have had very encouraging feedback from the carers who use the space. Young carers have said that they feel better supported, that they are better informed about the condition of the person they are caring for and that they feel less isolated and more confident.

"Ownzone with its comfy bright sofas and snuggling cushions has a way of creating a relaxing environment to promote discussion".

- Carers Bucks staff member

Tingewick Football Club

Project: Covering equipment and coaching costs to grow the club

Grant: £1,525

Tingewick Football Club is a junior/youth football club that offers grassroots football for local children. At the time of applying for grant funding, the club had one under-16s team, which had started as an under-14s team when the club was originally set up. The club wanted to grow in order to reach more children and offer more football opportunities to the wider community.

As a result of this funding, Tingewick FC was able to set up an under-10s and an under-11s team and supply them with full kit. The grant has also been used to purchase equipment such as balls, cones and goals which are essential for the team's training and matches. In addition to this, the grant has also enabled Tingewick FC to pay for a level 1 coaching qualification for a parent volunteer who is now the registered coach for the team.



"Being able to set up two new football teams has been of huge benefit to the community. It has promoted health and wellbeing for a large number of children whilst at the same time encouraging parents to spend fun, quality time with them".

- Mandy Putman, Club Treasurer

Youth Concern

Project: Building a social media campaign to raise awareness of local youth homelessness services and other services offered by Youth Concern

Grant: £5,000



This grant enabled Youth Concern to work with a communications professional to consult with young people to develop a social media strategy that focused on developing the charity's presence online and reaching the right audiences. The process of creating an engaging social media campaign involved encouraging young people to take selfies in support of the campaign, fundraising, designing posters and being part of a virtual youth steering group.

In total 15 young people actively engaged in the project and as a result Youth Concern now reach many more young people through their social media communications. They grew their Facebook following and also set-up an Instagram account following further consultation with young people who claimed this was their favoured platform.



Isolation & disadvantage

Projects completed: 27

Amount awarded: £84,195

Black Park Shed

Project: Preparing an area of wasteland to function as a user-friendly garden for Black Park Shed members

Grant: £1,500

Black Park Shed, located in the area of the old sawmill in Black Park in South Bucks, is a non-profit association offering members of the community a space to meet, socialise and engage in practical activities such as woodwork and gardening.

The Shed provides a friendly space for its members, often either unemployed or retired individuals who have not been previously linked with other social groups, to share experiences, knowledge and skills in a safe and enjoyable environment and to make friends for life with others who share interests and a common purpose.

With the help of this grant, Black Park Shed were able to complete the first phase of their new garden development. They began transforming an area of wasteland near their meeting place into a user-friendly garden by landscaping the area and purchasing materials to build raised bed planters, erect trellis fencing and lay down grass turves and pea shingle around planters.



Not only will the garden become a space where people can meet and work together upon its completion, the process of creating the space has, in itself, brought the members of Black Park Shed together. All members took an active part in constructing the garden and, as progress is made, members are seeing the potential of the communal space and looking at ways to make the area a special place for people to sit and relax.

"Projects like our garden would be very difficult to complete in the timescale we wanted without the financial help provided by Heart of Bucks".

- Black Park Shed member

Aylesbury Foodbank

Project: Preparing and equipping Aylesbury Foodbank's new central warehouse to more effectively distribute food boxes to those in need

Grant: £3,000



Aylesbury Foodbank distributes food boxes to the four distribution centres around the town from its central warehouse, ensuring that people in crisis are able to feed themselves and their families.

The philosophy of the Aylesbury Foodbank is to provide assistance that will help people get through a crisis and onto a longer term and sustainable solution, referring people in need to organisations and funding sources that can help them to resolve their situation.

The demand for emergency food parcels has increased steadily since the foodbank was set up in 2016. With this grant, Aylesbury Foodbank were able to undertake necessary building work to their new, larger premises, buy packing materials and equipment for the warehouse and equip and furnish a rest room for their volunteers and staff.

Towards the end of 2019, Aylesbury Foodbank said that they'd provided 27,342 meals to local people in crisis that year so far. This is a 54.2% increase over the same period last year, which could not have been achieved in their previous, smaller warehouse.

The Princes Centre

Project: Purchasing a specially-equipped minibus to ensure adults with a variety of needs can attend the Centre for care, support and companionship

Grant: £5,000

The Princes Centre provides day care services for adults of all ages with all types of disabilities and conditions. Visitors to the centre receive care and support, mental and physical stimulation and the opportunity to socialise with others.

Initially, Buckinghamshire County Council kindly loaned a minibus to the Centre. This enabled certain visitors to be transported to and from the Centre for support and to partake in other activities that reduce isolation, such as trips and days out. Many of the visitors to The Princes Centre are unable to use public transport as a result of both physical and mental disabilities, making the minibus a lifeline for them.

This grant has contributed to the overall cost of purchasing a new minibus, so that The Princes Centre now have their own vehicle that they have adapted to the needs of the individuals they support.





The environment & public spaces

Projects completed: 3

Amount awarded: £3,878.99

Some of these projects were funded and began in the year 2018/19. They are featured here because we received details of the impact of the funding at the end of these projects in the year 2019/20.

Chiltern Rangers

Project: Educating young people about environmental issues and increasing their engagement with local wildlife

Grant: £4,774

Chiltern Rangers are a social enterprise who work with communities to provide practical habitat management.

With this grant, Chiltern Rangers ran both engagement and practical sessions for 114 young people who were guided through the process of conceptualising, planning and delivering a public engagement project, increasing their awareness of local and global environmental issues and how young people can make a difference through collective social action.

Some participants even got involved in a full campaign day named 'Community Environment Day' with the aim of increasing knowledge of and engagement with Youth Social and Environmental Action. On the day, young people were able to share the learnings from their sessions and, along with their families, learned more about their local habitats and what action can be taken to look after them.

The participants felt empowered to take newly learned information back to their schools and community groups and spread the message regarding the environmental impact of litter, pollution and single-use plastics. The local woodland and river has benefitted from a thorough clean up and the creation of eco-themed public art has improved the local public space while continuing to spread environmental awareness.

"It didn't look like there was much litter in the river. As I went in it opened my eyes and showed me how much there really is. I'm 100% coming back to make more difference".

- N.Khan (aged 16), participant



Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust

Project: Creating a sensory garden in a corner of the Wycombe Museum garden

Grant: £5,000



This grant was used to fund a therapeutic gardener to work with Special Educational Needs students aged between 17 and 25 years and their carers to create a sensory garden in a corner of the Wycombe Museum garden. The young people who took part are mainly non-verbal with high levels of need.

The project was an excellent partnership between Macintyre Life Skills students and carers, museum staff, museum volunteers and the therapeutic gardener from Mind Over Matter.

The corner of the garden used for the sensory area had previously attracted drug addicts and anti-social behaviour. However, the space is now a lovely seating area and planted space that is mentioned regularly on the Museum's Facebook page by visitors. The garden is also used weekly as part of the museum's Forest School and Tiny Tots Storytime Trail.

Buckingham Canal Society

Project: Renovating the Right of Way footpath where it has fallen into disrepair

Grant: £2,317

This grant enabled Buckingham Canal society to renovate the Right of Way footpath that will form part of the new towpath/footpath that will run alongside the future canal renovation.

The restoration of the canal aims to improve and increase access to green infrastructure for the communities along its 11 mile length and, by extension, enhance the wellbeing of the public who live locally to the canal.

In addition to improving the Right of Way footpath, making the stretch of canal accessible to people with disabilities, Buckingham Canal Society also purchased timber to form a new bridge over a stream and a wood chipper to dispose of overgrown trees and hedges in an environmentally friendly way to make sure the footpath was kept clear.



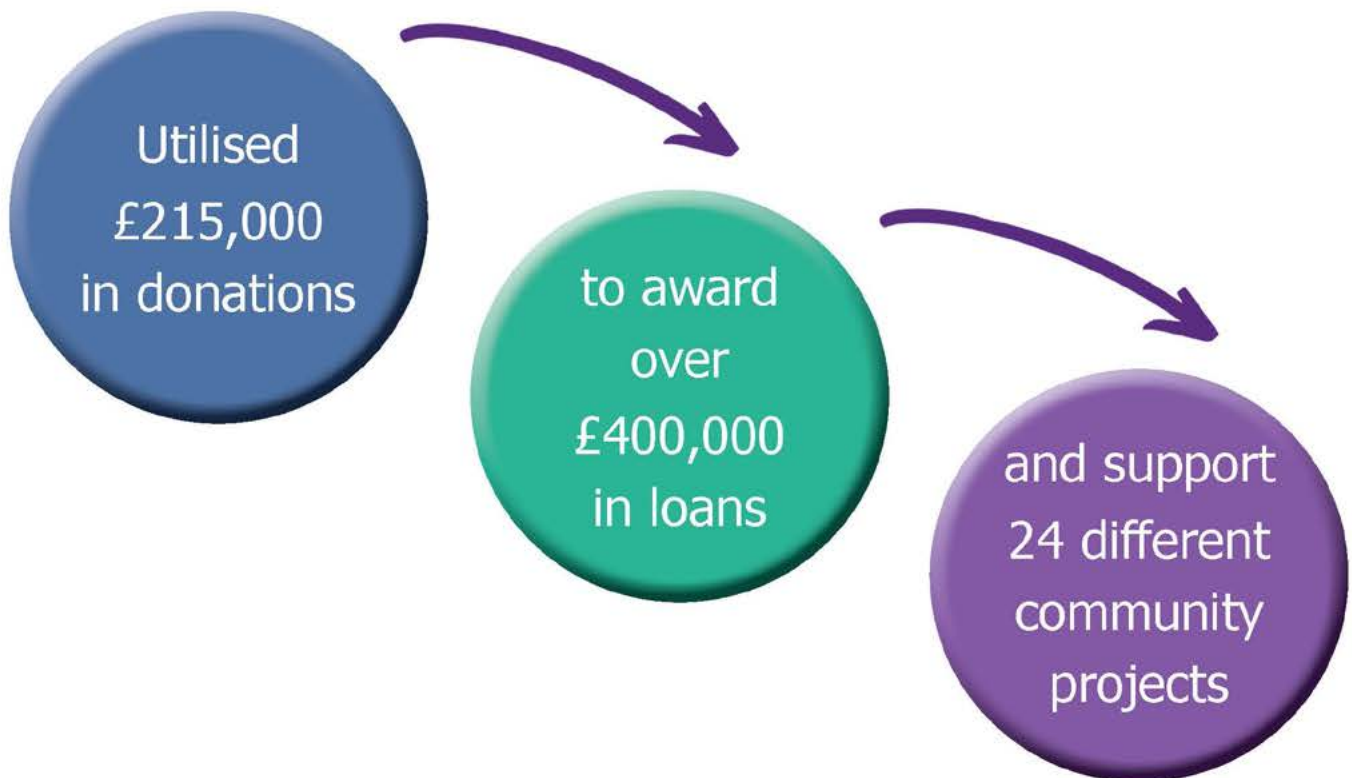
Pictured: a rewatered part of the canal.



Loans: Bucks Big Society Bank

Since 2011, Heart of Bucks has administered the Bucks Big Society Bank, awarding loans which are generally between £1,000 and £25,000.

Since 2011, we have...



Loan funding is available to registered charities, social enterprises, incorporated industrial and provident societies and community amateur sports clubs.

Applicants to our Bucks Big Society Bank loan scheme must demonstrate a community benefit to Buckinghamshire residents and the ability to repay the loan.

These loans are often taken out by organisations that need a larger sum of money for a project that, once completed, will improve their revenue stream. For instance, sports clubs or community facilities such as village halls.

Learn more at heartofbucks.org/loans



Bucks Mind was awarded £1,500 as the winner of the Supporters' Vote.



Bucks County Museum was awarded £500 as a runner up of the Supporters' Vote.

Annual Reception 2019



Black Park Shed was awarded £500 as a runner up of the Supporters' Vote.



Denham United Ladies FC was awarded £500 as the winner of our first ever People's Choice Award.

Awards kindly
sponsored by



Support us

Giving through Heart of Bucks enables you to support multiple causes and to see the impact of your giving by funding specific projects.

If you're looking to get involved in charitable giving at a local level then we can help. We pride ourselves on our ability to personalise the method by which people and businesses give back to the local community and we will guide you through the options available to ensure your money is used effectively and reaches organisations that can support those most in need.

Ways to give



Open a named fund with us



Become a community investor or an ambassador



Leave a legacy

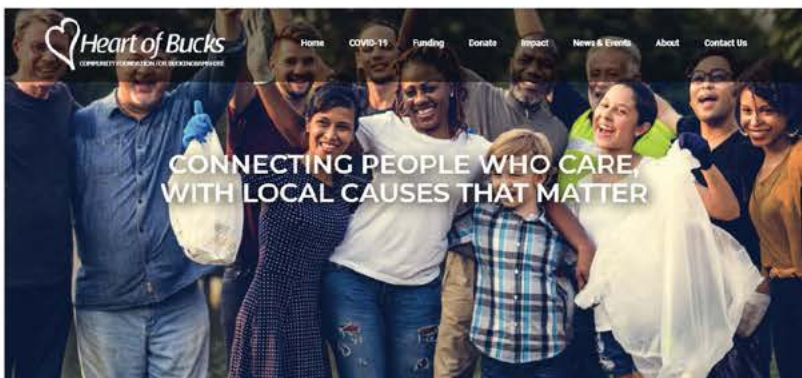


Support our Family Angels campaign



Support our Winter Warmth campaign

Learn more & get in touch



Visit **heartofbucks.org** to read our quarterly newsletters and funding newsletters, read our data-driven reports, learn about our Community Investors scheme and much more.

We'd love to hear from you!
If you'd like to learn more about supporting the Buckinghamshire community, please do get in touch:

info@heartofbucks.org | 01296 330134

With thanks to

Our generous donors and supporters

Our Board of Trustees and the members of our panels and committees

The committed staff team at Heart of Bucks

Without these dedicated people, our work to support the Buckinghamshire community would not be possible.

We would like to extend a big thank you to our Chairman, the Countess Howe DL, who will be leaving us in November 2020 to take up the role of Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. We are grateful for Elizabeth's dedication to the Foundation, her generosity and her warmth to all of the team at Heart of Bucks. We wish her every success in her prestigious new role.



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**FUNDRAISING
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FOUNDATIONS**
GIVING FOR LOCAL GOOD



Heart of Bucks, 4th Floor Sunley House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FQ

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