



ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

*Connecting people who care
with local causes that matter*

Thank you

We are incredibly grateful to our many donors and supporters whose generosity makes our work possible.

A special thank you also goes to:

- » Our board of trustees and the members of our expert panels and committees.
- » Our dedicated office staff.
- » Corporate suppliers, many of which share their services pro bono.
- » All of the voluntary and community groups that are working tirelessly to make Buckinghamshire a better place to live.

heartofbucks.org

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About us

Heart of Bucks is the community foundation for Buckinghamshire; a funding organisation that supports essential local charities and community groups.

Working in partnership with individuals, businesses and public sector organisations, Heart of Bucks delivers funding to hundreds of not-for-profit groups that are helping to improve the lives of people in Buckinghamshire.

An array of different projects and organisations have received funding since Heart of Bucks awarded their first grant in 2000. From cancer support groups, befriending services and counselling sessions, to support for children with additional needs, rough sleepers or ex-offenders.

As one of the largest non-statutory funders in the county, during 2020/21 we distributed £1.5m in funding; our biggest year to date.

What is a Community Foundation?

Community foundations are grant-making charities that are dedicated to improving the lives of people in a defined local geographic area.

Heart of Bucks is part of a network of 47 community foundations across the UK, all striving to help people and organisations invest in their communities.

Every three years we undergo an independent quality accreditation as part of our membership of UK Community Foundations.

Chair's message



It is with great pleasure that I write my first message for the annual report as Chair. As most of you may know, our previous Chair, Countess Elizabeth Howe, has moved on to serve as Lord Lieutenant for the county. We wish her well and cannot thank her enough for the tremendous energy, commitment and dedication she brought to Heart of Bucks over the past ten years. She has managed, with the help of the team, to raise our profile and demonstrate that we are a safe place for our generous benefactors to place their funds.

My aim is to build on this and demonstrate that we can continue to make a difference to the lives of those most in need within the county.

As was the case for many, last year was not 'business as usual' and we had to adapt quickly in order to support the Buckinghamshire voluntary and community sector during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is heart-warming to know that there are so many people who are willing to give to those less fortunate than themselves. I must say a big 'thank you' to all our donors as, without you, we could not possibly make the difference that we aim for.

The need within the county during the last year is reflected in the distribution of our grants, with over half of the £1.5m awarded in funding focused on physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety. Our crisis funds, awarding grants to individuals and families, also grew over the course of the year and we supported a large number of people who were directly impacted by the pandemic, in addition to our usual Family Angels and Winter Warmth funds.

Our independent grants panel supports us to ensure that funding applications are well targeted and impactful for our community. Our committees enable us to benefit from specialist skills and knowledge to ensure that we operate effectively. My thanks go to our volunteer grants panel and committee members for sharing their time and expertise.

I am indebted to our board of trustees who are our greatest advocates and willing to offer their advice and support for the work we do. I am also grateful to the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire.

Finally, the work of Heart of Bucks would not be possible without the excellent team of staff, led by our CEO Henry Allmand.

Moir Stewart

CEO's message



My second message for our annual report comes at the end of one of the most fraught periods for Buckinghamshire and wider society. We have all experienced considerable uncertainty, challenge, and pressure over the 2020-21 financial year, more so perhaps than any other in recent memory.

The Coronavirus pandemic presented an opportunity for Heart of Bucks to support the community in a way it had not previously been called upon to. £1.5m was distributed to groups and individuals in Buckinghamshire during the pandemic year, more than twice our previous best year, and over three times the amount awarded in 2019-20. The speed of response and scale of support was our most noteworthy contribution to the challenges faced by communities across Buckinghamshire.

With this dramatic increase in workload came increased demands on our close-knit team of staff, volunteers, and trustees, and my first recognition must go to them. In the

midst of everything, they have kept the organisation moving, kept track of local needs, and kept up the enthusiasm for their work that I found so infectious when I started just over two years ago. It is with tremendous gratitude that I look back on the many positive projects we have delivered, as a team, during the pandemic – and a big 'thank you' to everyone at Heart of Bucks who makes it possible.

Secondly, I must recognise our extensive network of external partners, who make possible many of the projects we engage in. To the local council, the Rothschild Foundation, the National Emergencies Trust, UKCF, the National Lottery Community Fund, our strategic partners in the local voluntary sector, our growing network of corporate partners and sponsors, and every other organisation that has made our work possible, I say a heartfelt 'thank you' for ensuring that we have such positive and constructive local relationships. Our work cannot be done in isolation; it needs a local and national support network, and I am grateful ours is so full of collaboration.

The final and most significant thank you must of course go to those people who make our work possible – our donors and fund-holders. The unprecedented support we have provided for our community this past year would simply not have been possible without this group of people making such generous donations and contributions to our work. When the community needed them most, they stepped up and dug deep in their pockets to find the additional resources to make a difference. I have come to know many of them personally as my time at the foundation goes by, and I never cease to be impressed by their generosity and flexibility in supporting the community they call home. Everyone at our foundation is delighted to be working with donors and fund-holders who care so passionately about their local place.

Despite a challenging year on all fronts, I feel proud of our collective achievements. I am again filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the coming months and years. Buckinghamshire is a resilient place and we have so many exciting and creative projects underway at Heart of Bucks, that I am confident it will remain a healthy and prosperous county with thriving local communities and places. If you are interested in working with our foundation, I would welcome a conversation with you about our work and plans for the future – please do get in touch - Henry@heartofbucks.org.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Henry Allmand

End of year figures

£2,062,597

Income this year

£8,644,292

Long-term investments

£1,449,006

Total awarded in grants

£25,000

Awarded in loans

£245,456

In grants to individuals and families

£2,090

Average grant amount

430

Number of individuals and families supported

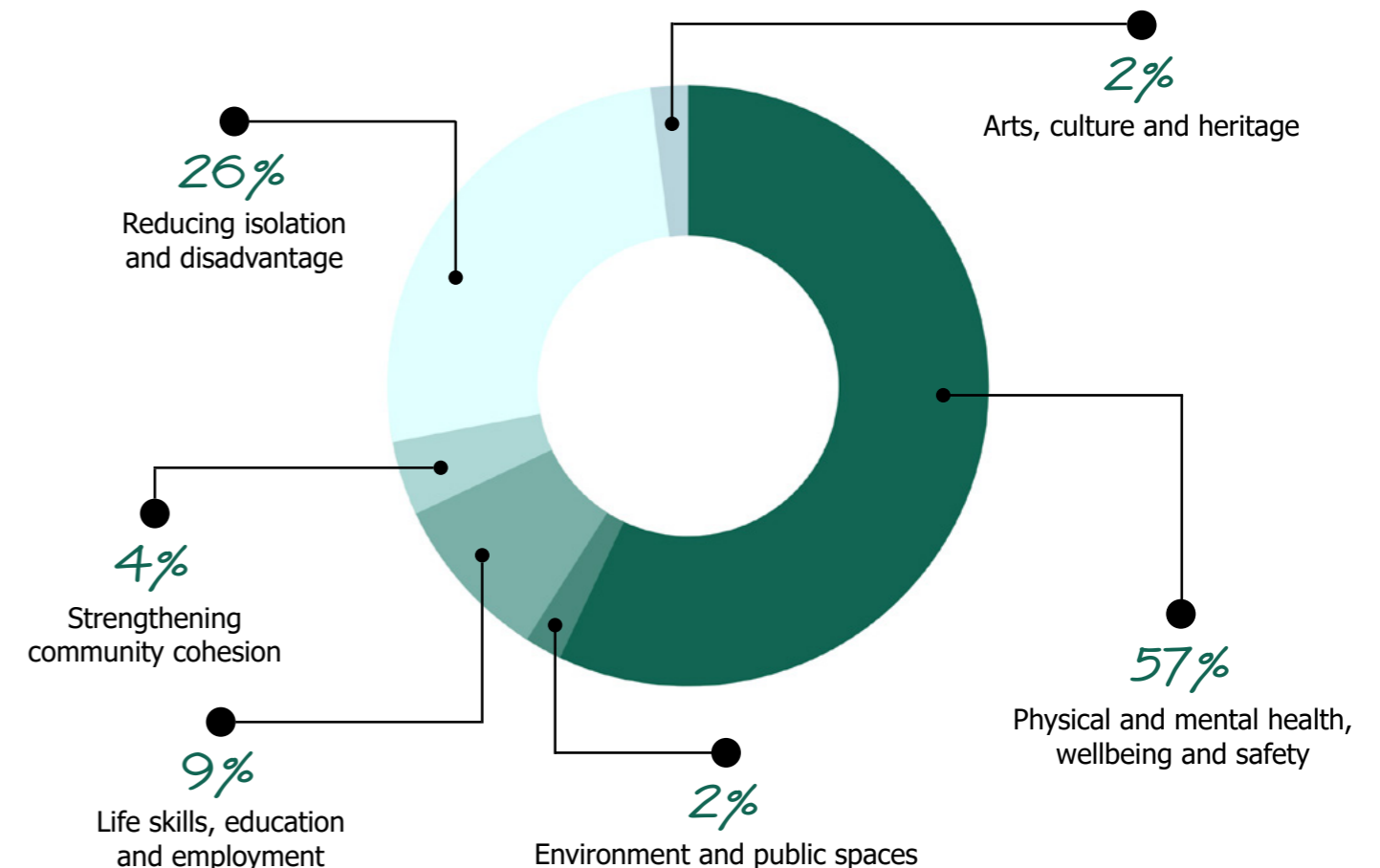
693

Total number of projects funded

39

New organisations supported

Grants awarded by impact category



Achievements

£1.5m

awarded in grant and loan funding during 2020/2021

£10m

awarded since our foundation was established in 2000

Other achievements for the year

With the support of Buckinghamshire Council, **expanding our emergency funds** to support individuals and families who were in a crisis as a result of COVID-19. In total, £205,000 was awarded to local people, with £91,000 being used to provide essential food for families in need.

Chairing the Buckinghamshire Strategic Funding Group. This small group of local funding organisations has taken a collaborative approach to non-profit funding.

Adapting our grants panels to run virtually – our dedicated grants panel members were meeting weekly at one point to enable us to process applications as quickly as possible. **Our fastest grant decision was less than 24 hours** from application receipt to payment!

Awarding our **largest ever single grant of £73,000** in partnership with the Rothschild Foundation and the Clare Foundation. The Capacity Wellbeing Fund encouraged partnership working and went to a consortium led by the Oasis Partnership for their 'Listen, Learn and Adapt' project; a collaboration of five Buckinghamshire charities working with BAME communities.

Awarding the **first grant from our 'Green Future Bucks' initiative**, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

Launching a **'Community Investor' fund, aimed specifically at the local business community**, and those businesses who want to give back to their local area. This was opened with our corporate partners Ashridge Group, B P Collins LLP, Buckinghamshire Building Society, Chandler Garvey, and OnBoard.

Feedback

Heart of Bucks recognises how important it is that we evolve our processes to ensure we remain relevant and useful to our local community and not-for-profit sector. With that in mind, all grant applicants are given the opportunity to provide feedback on both the process of grant application and reporting, and the support available from the funding team.

Across the year, 211 end of grant reports were received. This was lower than expected, but perhaps unsurprising, given the Covid-impacted environment our groups were operating in. Of these reports:

- 77** provided feedback about the grant application and reporting process
- 43** gave comments about the operation of and support from the funding team
- 47** commented on the impact of the grant awarded

Of the 77 comments received that related to the process 68 (88%) were very positive. The notable themes, mentioned by the highest number of respondents were:

- » The speed of decision making
- » The proportionate nature of our application and reporting requirements
- » The clarity of our application and reporting forms

"The positive communication from Heart of Bucks soon after the impact of Covid was realised was appreciated enormously, this included an understanding that original target outcomes may need to be adapted as well as ongoing efficient and friendly support even when staff are working from home."

- StartupOnline

"We were hugely impressed by the speed of your response: 48 hours from the submission of an expression of interest to being told that a grant would be made must be a record! That speed was critical in bringing urgent relief to some desperate families and individuals."

- Wycombe Refugee Partnership

Of the 44 comments received that related to the team, 43 (98%) were very positive. The notable themes, mentioned by the highest number of respondents were:

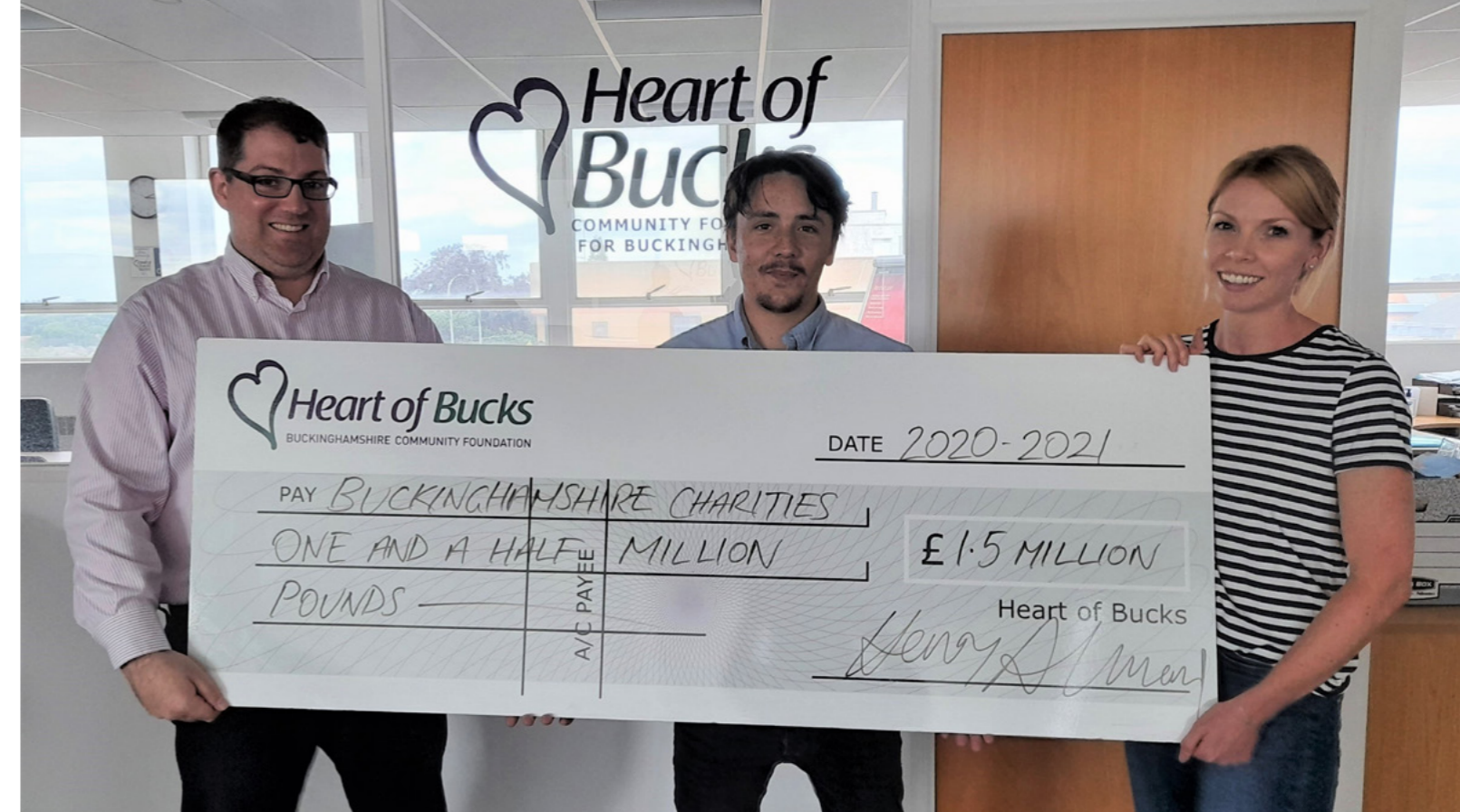
- » Our knowledge and understanding of the needs of the sector
- » Our flexibility in the face of a frequently changing environment
- » The clarity, timeliness and accessibility of advice and guidance
- » Our pro-active approach to crisis response – we didn't wait for the sector to come to us

Overall, we were really pleased to have achieved such positive feedback in a very challenging year. We are very grateful to all the groups that found the time to complete and submit their end of grant reports and particularly to those who provided us with valuable feedback on our processes and performance.

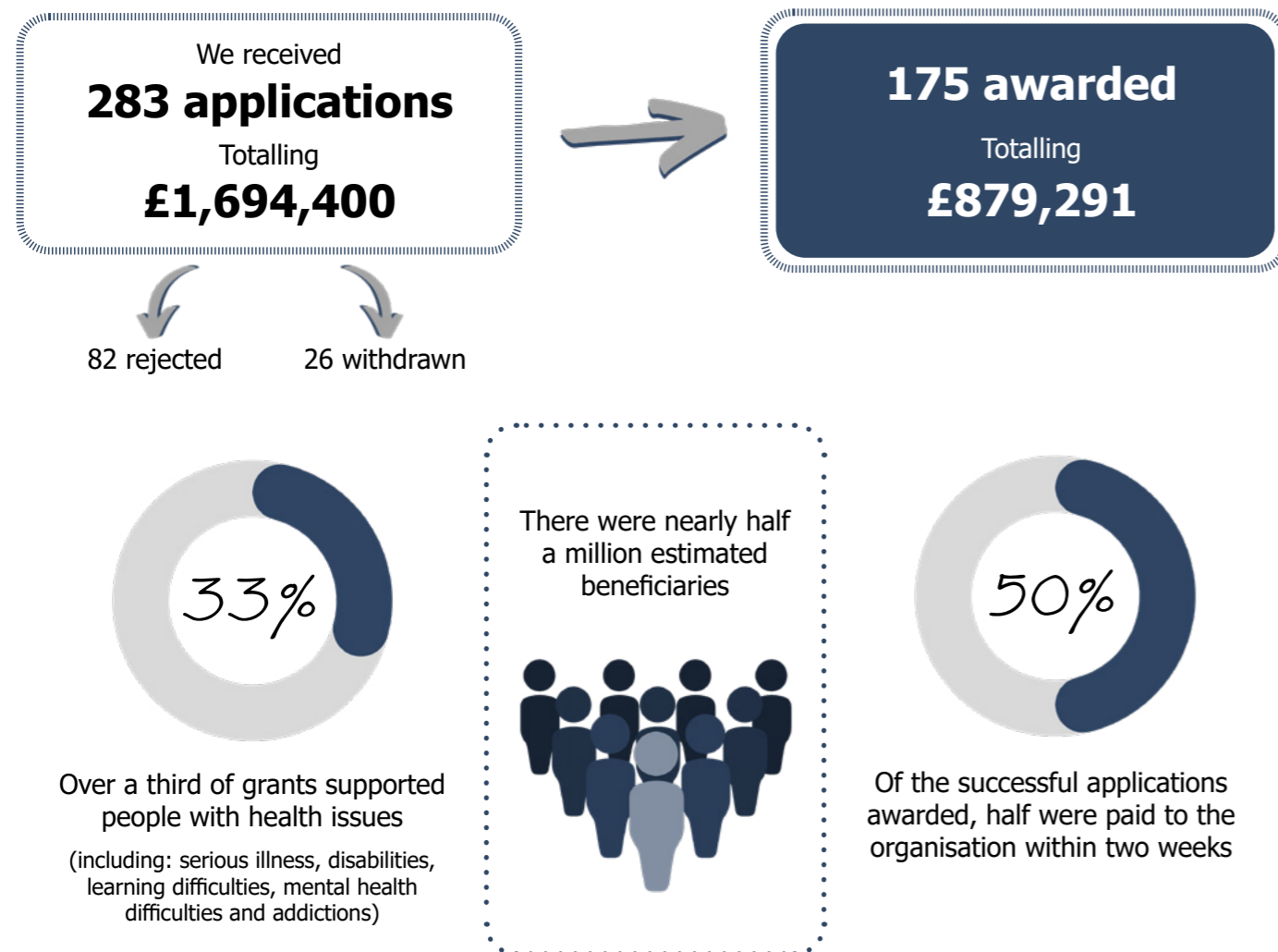
Covid-19 response

2020-2021 was a particularly challenging year for the whole country, and equally so for our not-for-profit sector, and of course for Heart of Bucks. We wanted to respond quickly to local needs and so, alongside relocating our entire operation to home working, we redesigned our grant application and decision-making processes. Our aim was to increase the speed and responsiveness of our grant making, whilst retaining appropriate due diligence standards. As well as local fundraising, we worked hard to bring in additional national funding to the county to support our communities.

We were very pleased that this work enabled us to achieve our largest ever number and value of grants distributed. Across the year, the staff team and volunteer grants panel members were very busy awarding around £1.5m in grant funding. You can find more information on how much of this funding was in direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic below*.

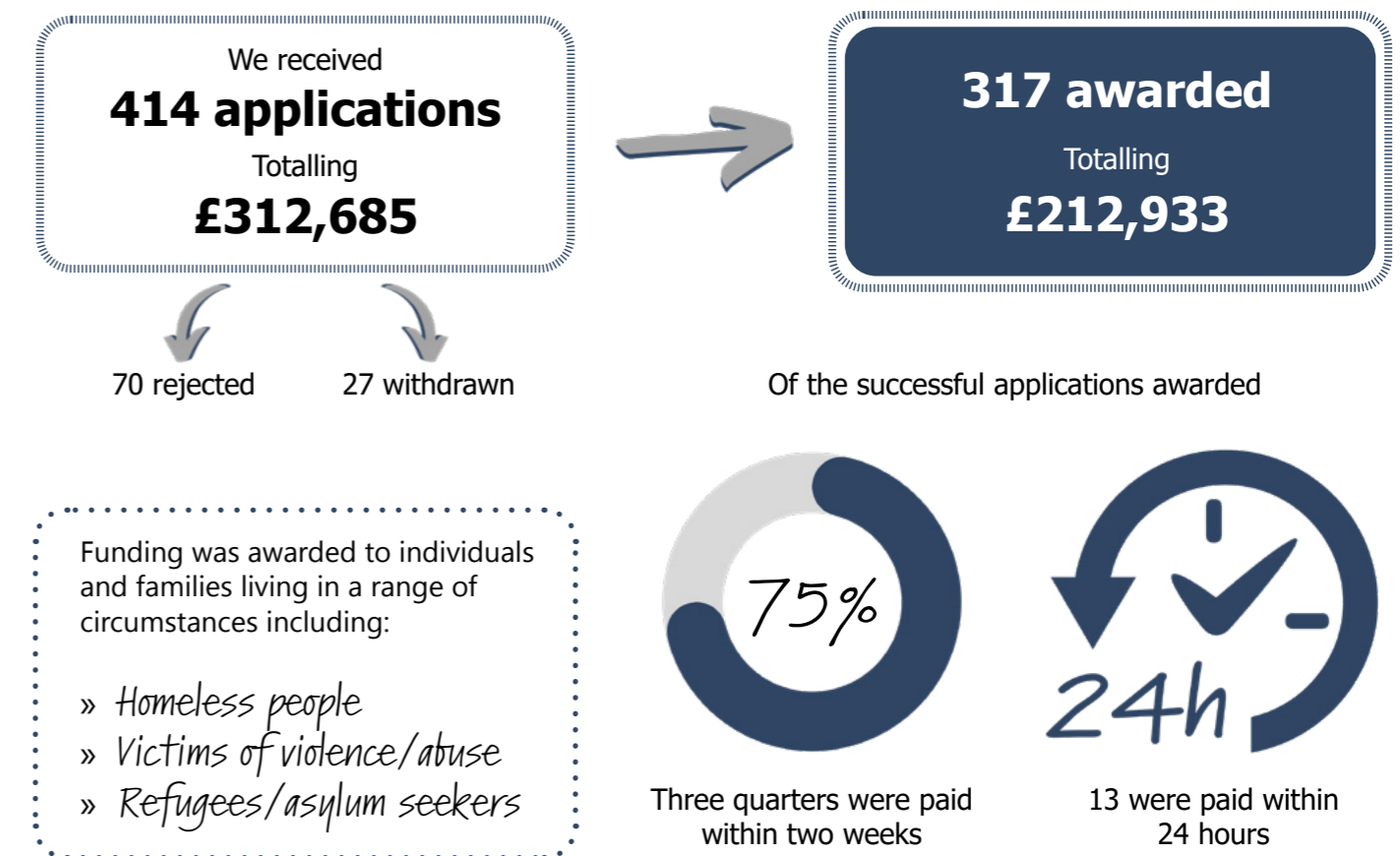


Grants awarded to voluntary and community groups



Grants awarded to individuals and families

With the support of Buckinghamshire Council, we were able to expand our emergency funds to support individuals and families who were in a crisis as a result of Covid-19. A large proportion of the total awarded was used to provide essential food for families in need.



*Figures based on the period during which our Covid-19 funds were awarding grants (19/03/2020 - 30/06/2021)

Partnerships

We are pleased to work on projects throughout the year with a number of organisations that have helped us achieve our charitable objectives in Buckinghamshire. Collaborative working is an important part of our approach to support the community and we are grateful to our partners who have helped us in the last 12 months, including:



Community Investors

Heart of Bucks is supported by a number of corporate and business partners; our Community Investors. These valued, responsible and caring companies work closely with us, whether it be by making donations to our appeals or core costs, fundraising for our organisation, establishing funding programmes, sponsoring research or events, or promoting our work to the community.



Impact categories



Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

Projects completed: 56
Amount awarded: £259,829
Beneficiaries: 77,302

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Reducing isolation & disadvantage

Projects completed: 49
Amount awarded: £215,753
Beneficiaries: 61,502

Page 16



Improving life skills, education & employability

Projects completed: 13
Amount awarded: £91,696
Beneficiaries: 7,085

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Strengthening community cohesion

Projects completed: 13
Amount awarded: £47,579
Beneficiaries: 66,372

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The arts, culture & heritage

Projects completed: 5
Amount awarded: £21,147
Beneficiaries: 12,531

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The environment & public spaces

Projects completed: 5
Amount awarded: £16,300
Beneficiaries: 5,150

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Figures from completed projects with end of grant monitoring submitted between 01/04/20 and 31/03/21.



Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

Projects completed: 56
Amount awarded: £259,829
Beneficiaries: 77,302

Wycombe Youth Action

Project: #BreakingBarriers - encouraging sport and movement in young people

Grant: £3,660

Fund: Moving Our Communities

The Wycombe Youth Action team run projects throughout the year to engage a wide range of young people and help them develop skills and confidence. Many of these projects are aimed at reducing social exclusion and helping young people to achieve their goals.

#BreakingBarriers is aimed at young people in the community who are unable to access sporting activities for a number of reasons. The groups supported included those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, ethnically diverse communities, and young people with long term conditions or who are disabled. It has also enabled young people who are carers or refugees to access sports within the community, to try different activities, and to socialise with young people from different backgrounds and cultures.



As a result of this project, Wycombe Youth Action supported over 60 young people through a three-day event. One of the attendees was a refugee from Algeria:

"A young man aged 17 came along with his two brothers and it was evident to see how much this project impacted him. He attended all three days, engaging in the sports, especially football, martial arts, boxing and sports education. It was clear he was a skilled footballer and he had a conversation with the football coach about joining a local football team. We also met his parents to discuss transportation to training sessions and matches. We could see he was already starting to develop in confidence and over the three days became much more approachable."

- Nicola Workman, Wycombe Youth Action

Horses Helping People CIC

Project: Online support and telephone befriending for vulnerable service users and volunteers

Grant: £4,500

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal

Horses Helping People was created in 2007 to provide therapeutic horsemanship for the whole community, particularly people from a disadvantaged background. The benefits of therapeutic horsemanship, or equine-facilitated learning, are now starting to be appreciated in the UK. Horses Helping People is at the forefront of this, bringing together people and horses in a safe environment with positive results on mental health and wellbeing.

With a £4,500 grant from the NET Coronavirus Appeal, Horses Helping People were able to look after their horses while keeping in touch with their vulnerable clients. Aware of the negative impact that isolation was having on their clients and their families and carers, the team at Horses Helping People quickly developed online and telephone support provided by a team of three staff members for over 50 people.



Alzheimer's Society (Aylesbury and Buckingham)

Project: Support for front-line Dementia Advisers

Grant: £4,333

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Response Appeal



The Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading dementia charity; they campaign for change, fund research and support those living with dementia.

From day one of the crisis, the charity's Dementia Advisers have been on the front-line, raising safeguarding alerts, organising food packages and helping those who have limited support networks. This grant was awarded to ensure this lifeline remained consistent and could continue to support over 650 people living with dementia in Bucks.

One Dementia Adviser spoke to a 97-year-old man who lives alone, is unable to cook and was trying to survive on just cereal. The Dementia Adviser arranged a food parcel to be delivered, helping the man to eat

more nutritional meals. There are many more people like him, who can't leave the house to buy food, are unable to book an online delivery, or have no local support.

In total, the Aylesbury and Buckingham branch provided over 1,700 welfare calls to 552 people via Dementia Advisers, as well as 321 companion calls to 33 of the most vulnerable and lonely people.



Reducing isolation & disadvantage

Projects completed: 49
Amount awarded: £215,753
Beneficiaries: 61,502

Ludgershall Friends Covid Support Group

Project: Subsidised hot meals and weekly fruit and vegetable parcels

Grant: £4,500

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal



The Ludgershall Friends Covid Support Group provided weekly fruit and vegetable food parcels to those aged over 70 and other vulnerable people. The purpose of the food parcel was to keep the need to shop to a minimum, in turn protecting elderly residents and their shopping buddies and preventing the spread of the virus.

They were also able to provide a weekly subsidised hot meal to elderly people living alone or those shielding in the village. The hot meal helped to boost morale and provided another way to reach out to vulnerable people on a regular basis.

Case study:

One elderly man, whose son died at the start of the pandemic, was very lonely and upset. The family were required to adhere to funeral restrictions so closure for him was difficult. The twice weekly visit with a food parcel and a hot meal meant that he was able to talk to someone (at a distance) on a regular basis, feel included and also have a check made on him. He was also not eating well due to his bereavement and was supplied with a bespoke meal that he really enjoyed. The support group were a lifeline for him during lockdown and isolation, which had been made doubly difficult due to bereavement.



Healthy Living Centre

Project: Creation of the Healthy Living Centre charity shop

Grant: £4,666

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund



The Healthy Living Centre is a community-led, health-focused service aiming to create opportunities that support the development of people in Buckinghamshire. They offer various face-to-face social events, meetings, and regular clubs and activities.

This grant was awarded to enable the Healthy Living Centre to refit one of their meeting rooms into a fully functional charity shop for local residents and visitors to the area. The work was carried out during the lockdown period and the shop opened its doors to the public in April 2021.

Their 'Pre-Loved' shop sells second-hand items including women's, men's and children's clothing, homeware, games, toys, DVDs, books and much more. In addition to providing affordable items for local people, the shop also helps to generate further revenue for the centre to assist with their long-term viability.

Rennie Grove Hospice

Project: Emergency funding to deliver specialist nursing care at home during the pandemic

Grant: £5,000

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Response Appeal

Rennie Grove Hospice Care is a charity providing specialist care and support for adults and children with a life-limiting illness in Bucks. Through their unique Hospice at Home service and a range of day services, they support patients to live the best quality life they can with a choice about how and where they are cared for towards the end of life.

The Hospice at Home service is free for all patients and family members and is available 24/7, 365 days of the year. Their highly trained specialist nurses deliver expert palliative care to those who need help, at the earliest possible stage after diagnosis. This funding helped Rennie Grove to provide vital support for over 700 patients, despite the loss of so much income from fundraising due to the pandemic.



Rennie Grove supported Helen and her husband Gerald 'Ged' after he was diagnosed with complex cancer, Helen said:

"From the very start of our contact with Rennie Grove's nurses I noticed that they treated Ged very respectfully, and spoke directly to him. He trusted them. From then on they were a lifeline, and a constant reassuring presence. When you are caring for someone, you feel responsible for their life. It's a really big weight to carry, so it's nice to be able to call someone and discuss things you're worried about."



Improving life skills, education & employability

Projects completed: 13
Amount awarded: £91,696
Beneficiaries: 7,085

Youth Concern

Project: Online 'drop-in' service for vulnerable young people

Grant: £5,000

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Response Appeal

Youth Concern provides emotional and practical support for young people suffering abuse, poverty and homelessness. Due to the pandemic, their drop-in centre, which typically welcomed 50 young people a week, had to close. Youth Concern needed a way to reach their clients and support them remotely whilst putting plans in place for a Covid-safe reopening.

Utilising this funding, Youth Concern were able to set up a new phone system so calls were rerouted to the team's mobiles. They also introduced a mobile number for the young people who preferred to text or WhatsApp, as well as an online chat function for those who rarely have enough phone credit to make calls. Outgoing phone calls were also made to a number of young people known to the charity for a weekly 1:1 chat.



Case study:

"Things at home just got worse and what was going on at school just got pointless, so I left. Problem with leaving school is, you end up spending all your time at home. Nobody seems to get that, but the stuff at home was the reason for the fights at school, the drugs and all of it. When you leave school, as well, the mates drift away; they all eventually knuckle down or get a job or whatever.

That was the place I was in when I heard about Youth Concern and started chilling there because it was safe and, not going to lie, you could play table football all evening, which I liked.

The difference with Youth Concern is they didn't tell me what I'd got to do straight away, in that same voice that teachers use. To be honest, I didn't even realise I was speaking to a counsellor those evenings, I just thought he wanted to chill with me and the other lads who used to turn up. Maybe he did, I don't know, but it meant when we started talking about the real stuff, we were tight, and I could trust him. It's hard to say exactly, but it felt totally different.

My guy at Youth Concern helped me get back into some education; helped me sort out money from the government and saw me into a stable place to live. I've got the training to work in construction now, and Youth Concern have helped me write a CV and put the paperwork for an apprenticeship together. Best thing is, when stuff goes wrong as it still does, Youth Concern are still here at the youth centre in Aylesbury, and they never tell me to be quiet. The guy I speak to doesn't change every six months, either. And he's still up for table football."

Action 4 Youth

Project: National Citizen Service for SEN participants

Grant: £5,000

Fund: #iWill

Action4Youth provide positive and transformational experiences, activities, programmes and courses to help and inspire young people. This grant enabled them to expand their National Citizen Service, a residential initiative to develop life skills and confidence, to 60 SEN participants aged 16-19 in local Bucks schools.



The young people learned about and then participated in meaningful social action. They were pushed out of their comfort zone to try new things and to learn about various community issues and different sectors of the community. For instance, they have learnt about elderly people, especially those with Alzheimer's and how Covid has affected them. The projects have made young people consider others and their feelings and how they can make a difference outside the school environment and within the wider community.



All of the young people involved in the project have additional needs themselves and are supported by various individuals and organisations. Most of them haven't considered how they can actually support others or perhaps felt that they were unable to do this. The project empowered them to help others and to gain a sense of achievement, gratitude and happiness in doing so.

Pace Centre

Project: Interactive whiteboards, trolleys and webcams for virtual and hybrid service delivery

Grant: £9,200

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund



The Pace Centre is a ground-breaking children's charity that transforms the lives of children and young people with neurodisabilities. Their goal is to help children and young people with neurological disabilities achieve their full potential and be as independent as possible in their current and future lives.

Due to lockdown restrictions they became heavily reliant on technology to deliver their education and therapy services for their students and their families. The funding was used to procure the necessary equipment, including interactive whiteboards, trolleys and webcams, to minimise any potential disruption to their services. This not only meant peace of mind for the staff, but even more so to the families and children, who were already in a heightened state of anxiety.

As a result of this grant, the Pace Centre has been able to provide essential care and teaching to 20 Buckinghamshire children in a secure and safe environment.



Strengthening community cohesion

Projects completed: 13
Amount awarded: £47,579
Beneficiaries: 66,372

RCCG House of Mercy

Project: combating the Covid-19 social and economic impact on BAME communities

Grant: £4,248

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund

The Redeemed Christian Church of God - House of Mercy are a non-profit organisation and act for the benefit of their congregation as well as the wider community, particularly those needing emotional, material and family support. Their services and support are very inclusive and they are open to all who require their services as long as they have capacity to meet their needs.

This project enabled the House of Mercy to reach out to members of the BAME community who have been impacted by the pandemic by supplying essential food parcels for two months. The grant also allowed them to cover the cost of cleaning products, sanitizer, and social distancing measures in order to operate safely.



Feedback:

"Thank you for the groceries. It's much appreciated as I did not have enough food for my children and they are at home due to lockdown. I have worried about how I am going to cope so the food parcel came at the right time."

"My family and I would like to thank you for being so kind, caring, loving, helpful, thoughtful and selfless, and for volunteering. Your actions are priceless. We would like you to know how much we appreciate everything and for thinking about us at this moment."

Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio

Project: Broadcasting service for hospital staff, patients and visitors

Grant: £2,000

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal



Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio is run by a small group of volunteers and has no paid staff. They receive no official funding and rely on volunteer members to raise the minimum £8,000 per year that it costs to keep the station on air. The radio provides a vital service uplifting and maintaining morale among staff and patients alike.

The organisation's funding was impacted by lockdown and they needed to upgrade their equipment and software in order to deliver the service remotely and to broadcast 24/7. They are now able to do remote broadcasts which was extremely helpful throughout the latter stages of lockdown when presenters were advised not to travel to the hospital. This also meant they were able to broadcast up to date information and entertainment instead of a generic output which would have otherwise been their only option.

Going forward it will continue to allow them to do broadcasts away from their main studio at Stoke Mandeville and interact with patients and staff at the other Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust locations including High Wycombe and Amersham hospitals, as well as the cottage hospitals.

Leonard Cheshire - Chiltern House

Project: Digital inclusion for vulnerable care home residents

Grant: £1,650

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal

Chiltern House is a home providing a range of services for adults with physical disabilities. Leonard Cheshire works to make disabled people feel respected, valued and safe, allowing them to choose where and how they live whilst being able to participate freely in social and leisure activities. They support disabled people to claim their rights, access quality learning, and work and live as they choose.

During the pandemic they had to close Chiltern House to all external visitors. This impacted their 22 residents who were no longer able to receive visits from friends and family and as a result felt very isolated and lonely.

Utilising this grant, they were able to purchase tablets enabling residents to remain in contact with friends and family.





The arts, culture & heritage

Projects completed: 5
Amount awarded: £21,147
Beneficiaries: 12,531

Art Beyond Belief

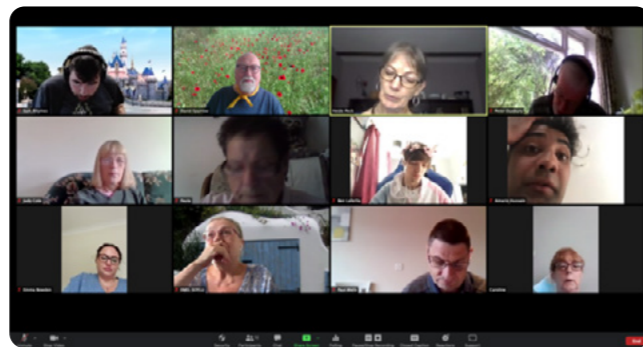
Project: Remote delivery of the 'Looking Glass Programme'

Grant: £3,660

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal

Art Beyond Belief run a project called the Looking Glass Programme which enables them to work with adults with mental health issues to improve coping and communication abilities and help maintain health and well-being.

This grant enabled them to deliver this programme to 10 new clients. They were able to customise the programme to be successfully delivered by remote means from the start of the relationship. They also made a number of online resources available through their website including photographs, exercises, and links to articles.



The funding was also used to provide additional training and support for their volunteers in order to help new participants remotely, and support their own mental wellbeing while doing so.

Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust

Project: Museum display for shopping centre

Grant: £5,000

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal



Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust were offered a unique opportunity to put a museum display space into the shopping centre in High Wycombe free of charge for six months, due to the closure of shops from Covid-19 leaving a number of units vacant.

This offer enabled the museum, which was forced to close, to create a large exhibition of the Windrush community in High Wycombe which is from 1950 - 2020, whilst still allowing for social distancing.

The museum were able to source, deliver, conserve and install a pop-up display of mid-century furniture for members of the public to enjoy. Some of the displays have only be possible thanks to this funding, with many items not seen by members of the public for up to 50 years.

Having a presence in the local shopping centre has enabled them to reach new audiences who may not consider visiting a museum, in turn helping to raise awareness. The museum has received lots of positive feedback from visitors and requests for more furniture to be put on display. Since the exhibition was launched their visitor numbers have continued to grow and in October they welcomed 676 visitors into the exhibition.

Garsington Opera

Project: Digital delivery of learning and participation programmes

Grant: £2,500

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal

Garsington Opera continues to introduce new generations to opera through education, outreach and exploring digital innovations that will enable their productions to be experienced by a new and wider audience.

This funding enabled the opera to produce a weekly digital workshop called Monday Motivation, primarily for their students, but which also embraced a wider demographic. It consisted of a half hour production running on YouTube focussing on themes of a specific opera and included segments from a choreographer, composer, a guest musical artist, and other creators.

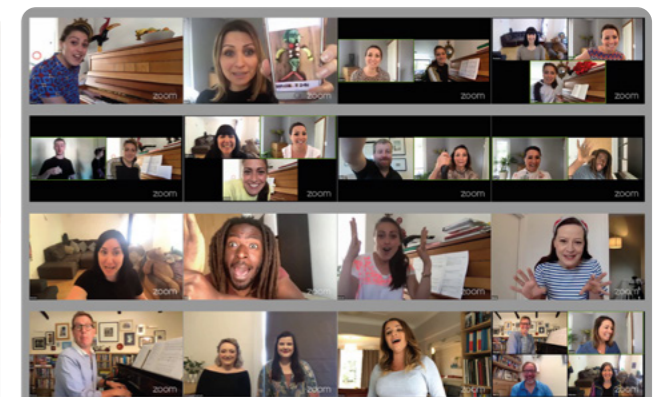
While the first two programmes reached over 200,000 people, over the course of its 17 week stretch Garsington Opera reached 3,500 people per week on average. Several of the schools that they normally engage with through their in-school programmes also assigned the Monday Motivation programme to their pupils.

Feedback:

"The programmes really opened our student's eyes to what opera is, all the different periods and different style of costumes."

"Brilliant! You are all so animated. It makes you want to join in."

"I like it because it makes us move and do things instead of just sitting there and watching it."





The environment & public spaces

Projects completed: 5
Amount awarded: £16,300
Beneficiaries: 5,150

Lillingstone Lovell Village Diocesan Church Council

Project: Improving the local environment, public spaces and biodiversity

Grant: £1,000

Fund: Heart of Bucks General Fund

Following consultation with the local community a number of 'needs' of the village, including how to increase diversity, were identified. A large portion of the community then continued to be involved in the project and the planting sessions.

The funding enabled a number of changes in the village:

- » 10 bird boxes have been installed in trees and on the village hall building.
- » 500 daffodils, 500 snakeshead fritillaries and 150 primroses were planted.
- » A new bench, planters and bee-loving plants were purchased.
- » The sedum horse sculpture, which suffered badly during the winter, has been repaired.
- » The spring, which had dried up, has been restored and is active again.



Feedback:

"We are all looking forward to the spring time to see the bulbs come out and the wildflowers come into flower. We are planning to continue the project into 2021 and plant a berry and blossom theme in the hedgerows. Hopefully in the spring time we can start to meet up socially more and be able to use the benches and the external space of the village hall."

Waddesdon Hall

Project: Woodland Walk

Grant: £2,500

Fund: Heart of Bucks General Fund

Waddesdon Hall Committee have been developing an unused and overgrown area of land into a 'woodland walk' by clearing the land, removing all the rubbish and creating paths. This grant was used for phase two of the project; the planting of plants and bushes. 3,000 people are estimated to benefit from this project. The area was originally overgrown and unused, but now after all the hard work, there is a beautiful garden that can be used for many things including as a forest school for children, as a resting place for the elderly to relax, and as an additional green space for those using the village hall.



"I am over 70 years old and this recent year was very hard for me, not being able to see and visit my loved ones. I was very upset and frequently had a low mood. When I saw the invitation to be part of the Woodland Walk project, I did not hesitate as I love gardening and this gave me an opportunity to feel the community spirit and satisfaction of being involved in an environmental legacy for the village."

Chiltern Rangers CIC

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

Grant: £3,000

Fund: National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal



Chiltern Rangers is an organisation working in Buckinghamshire 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 this grant, 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 May and 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 mobile handwashing kits, antiviral sprays, and gloves and goggles for volunteers to keep safe.

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'

"I wanted to thank you again for a smashing day yesterday - the kids are still talking about it this morning and slept well last night. They were engaged from start to finish and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Some of our pupils have discovered a passion for the environment that will give them a positive purpose in future life." - School teacher



Support us



Set up your own fund

A great way for you to get directly involved in supporting your community, without the cost and administration of setting up your own charitable trust.

- » Endowment: Funds will be invested securely, with the annual income being distributed in grants.
- » Immediate Impact: An annual donation is awarded as grants within that year, providing immediate support.
- » Hybrid: A combination of endowment and immediate impact, enabling you to grow a fund over time but also make an impact right away.



Donate to an ongoing fund

We manage a number of existing funds that are thematic or issue specific and welcome donations to these to help expand their reach across the county.

- » Arts & Culture Fund
- » Crisis Funds ([Winter Warmth](#) & [Family Angels](#))
- » Green Schools Fund
- » Love Bucks
- » Youth Bank



Support for your charitable trust

Whether you want to transfer a charitable trust or commission us to provide grant-making services, Heart of Bucks offers a range of services specifically tailored to meet the needs of charitable trusts and is well placed to be able to offer a comprehensive and tailor-made grant-making process.

The Charity Commission acknowledges that Community Foundations have a reputation for the effective management of charitable funds in order to maximise their impact at local level.



Wills and legacies

A great way to leave a positive mark on the community long after you are gone, is by leaving a gift in your will. Heart of Bucks offers an ideal way to leave a legacy easily and tax-efficiently. If you prefer, we would be happy to work with your financial advisor to find the best solution for you.

As an accredited community foundation, legacies made to Heart of Bucks qualify as a charitable donation and are exempt from inheritance tax. This could help reduce the total amount of tax paid on your estate.



We're a charity too!

Donating directly to Heart of Bucks makes a huge difference to our work within the local community.

Your support will enable us to help hundreds of voluntary groups and charities by delivering grants that address specific challenges.

"Supporting the local community is important to us, and there is no better custodian to do that than Heart of Bucks, who know Buckinghamshire inside and out and will use their expertise and experience to transform the lives of those living in our county."

- Ruth and Henry Amar



Get in touch

We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to learn more about supporting the Buckinghamshire community, [please get in touch](#).

giving@heartofbucks.org
01296 330134

You can also visit heartofbucks.org to read our impact stories, subscribe to our quarterly newsletter and more.



"It's really important to us that we support local charities and so we are very pleased to be able to sponsor the Heart of Bucks annual report and support its programme of informed and targeted funding."

Sheryl Davis, partner



The partners and staff of Saffery Champness Chartered Accountants in High Wycombe are pleased to be able to support Heart of Bucks in its charitable endeavours.

Heart of Bucks are proud to support a diverse range of projects across Buckinghamshire

We have funded:

Cancer support groups

Knit and natter sessions

Equipment for virtual learning

Refurbishment of community spaces

Theatre workshops

Tree planting

and much, much more!



Heart of Bucks, New Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5QT

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