



WINTER WARMTH

Fighting fuel poverty in Buckinghamshire

*"Let's spread a little warmth where we can."
- Sir David Jason*

SIR DAVID JASON SUPPORTS OUR CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT FUEL POVERTY

According to the latest data, over 14,000 households in Buckinghamshire are living in fuel poverty. However, with the current energy crisis, there will be a devastating impact on many more local families this winter.

The Heart of Bucks Winter Warmth campaign is being supported by Buckinghamshire resident Sir David Jason and helps vulnerable people across Buckinghamshire who struggle to keep warm in the cold months. In addition to granting money towards heating bills, donated funds could also be spent on warm winter clothing, supplies for homeless people such as sleeping bags, and items many people take for granted, such as a hot water bottle or a kettle.

Any donation, however small, can have a big impact on a struggling person or family this winter. The campaign also encourages those who receive the Winter Fuel Payment from the government, but are able to comfortably pay their bills, to think about donating it to help vulnerable people.

Sir David said: "I am supporting the Winter Warmth campaign this year as I know it has been a particularly difficult year for those people who are feeling vulnerable and financially worried. Although many people qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment, not everyone needs it in the true sense of the word. Let's try and direct the payments to those less fortunate or for those who have suddenly found that their circumstances have changed. Let's spread a little warmth where we can."

If you are able to help, you can donate your winter fuel payment, or whatever you can afford, online using the link below.

You can also donate by sending a cheque made payable to 'Heart of Bucks' to: Heart of Bucks Winter Warmth, New Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 5QT.

[CLICK TO SUPPORT WINTER WARMTH](#)

A FANTASTIC EVENING FOR OUR ANNUAL SUPPORTERS' RECEPTION



We had a fantastic evening on Wednesday 20th October for our Annual Supporters' Reception, celebrating all of our achievements from the past year.

The event took place at the Gateway Conference Centre in Aylesbury and brought together our friends and supporters from across the county.

Following a drinks reception, presentations were given by Moir Stewart (Chair of Trustees), Liz Barter (Heart of Bucks ambassador) and Henry Allmand (CEO). We celebrated our record-breaking year awarding £1.5m in funding, and surpassing the £10m mark in the total awarded since our foundation began in 2000.

We also looked to the future and shared our aspirations for 2021/22, which include raising many more millions to support communities throughout Buckinghamshire and making a significant impact on the local area through considered grant-making.

For the third year running, we were pleased to award our People's Choice prize. The award recognises a group whose work in the community and impact on the local area makes Bucks a better place to live. This year's winners were The Pace Centre, who were awarded £1,000 thanks to kind sponsorship of the competition from ASM Auto Recycling.

A big 'thank you' also goes to the other nominated charities who joined us on the night and of course to all of the donors who make our work possible.

Here's to an even bigger and better 2021/22! Please get in touch by emailing: giving@heartofbucks.org if you'd like to find out more about working with us to support local charities and community groups.

Event kindly supported by

CCLA
GOOD INVESTMENT

JAMES FROST RECEIVES INAUGURAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR 2020/21

Heart of Bucks is delighted to announce James Frost as the winner of our inaugural President's Award for 2020/2021.

The President's Award acknowledges a local philanthropist who not only offers their financial support but goes above and beyond lending their time, experience and expertise to help make Buckinghamshire a better place for all.

James has been connected with Heart of Bucks since 1999 and, alongside his wife Elsie, has spent the last 20 years working tirelessly to support our foundation and local communities throughout Buckinghamshire.

James' incredible impact has been felt by countless people in Buckinghamshire, and 2020 made this even more apparent. James was a pivotal supporter of ours during the pandemic, and we are hugely grateful to him for generously providing the initial donation to launch our emergency Covid-19 fund. The appeal subsequently raised over £250,000, which went directly to those in Buckinghamshire who needed it most.



Speaking about the pandemic, the role of Heart of Bucks in his giving and what we all can do to support others, James said:

"Covid has been seen as a disaster, and it is true that there have been heartaches and difficulties. However, there has also been a tremendous upsurge of good. Within 48 hours of the announcement of lockdown, we had three notes in our post box offering help. Help from people we did not know. There have been so many cases of good and kindness that we must all know of some.

There was a need for a focal point to bring together help in Buckinghamshire. A means by which I could play a small part. For me, Heart of Bucks has turned out to be that focal point, dedicated people who have gone that extra mile to help others.

Let us not lose all the goodwill that has been generated by Covid.

We should not dwell on the past, we cannot change that, but we can change the future. All of us, whatever our circumstances, we can all be part of the future. Whether you are a busy executive, you have a chequebook if not time, or a school caretaker who goes out of their way to see that our children are safe. We can all do something. Heart of Bucks has helped and inspired me, and I look forward to the future with hope and confidence, together."

If you're interested in making a difference, or simply want to find out more about how Heart of Bucks can assist you with your charitable giving, please email us at: giving@heartofbucks.org

"BEING ANONYMOUS IS A KEY FACTOR IN MY CHARITABLE GIVING"

We recently caught up with one of our fund-holders who gives anonymously and spoke to them about why they have partnered with Heart of Bucks for their charitable giving.



How long have you been involved in charitable work?

It is only since selling my business four years ago, and the death of my parents shortly before, that I have become more involved in charitable giving.

My parents started with very little and worked hard, leading long and productive lives. After they died I realised the legacy I was due to receive was something that I didn't really need, and neither did my children. They had grown up, left home and forged successful

lives of their own: I wanted them to find their own paths and that is what they have done. I realised others out there needed financial and charitable support far more than they did.

Once that became clear to me, and once I had time and space to think about charitable giving, I considered the possibility of setting up some form of charitable pot or trust. I started my research and came across Heart of Bucks.

Why did you choose to set up a fund with Heart of Bucks?

Previously, I had not put that much thought into charitable giving as I was too involved with running a business. Subsequently it has become my main focus, but I didn't realise that it's just as hard to give money away as it is to earn it, especially if you have a business background! In the commercial world, you have a set of targets and you know what your priorities are. Within the charitable world everything is a 'good cause' and it's the process of identifying, researching, checking and prioritising those good causes that I find challenging.

This is where 'umbrella' charitable organisations, such as Heart of Bucks can really help, with their wider overview of the sector.

A key quality that appealed to me is Heart of Bucks' research ability. They have a much better understanding of the needs of Buckinghamshire and its residents, and more experience in prioritising and targeting charitable support than any one individual could hope to gain.

"Within the charitable world everything is a 'good cause' and it's the process of identifying, researching, checking and prioritising those good causes that I find challenging."

What do you like most about having a fund with a community foundation?

The grants team receives an abundance of applications and they then filter through to me the ones that fit my criteria. The grants team has the expertise and local knowledge to only send through projects that they know I'll be interested in and I value the time they spend on that filtering.

As an outsider to the charity sector, I also appreciate the team at Heart of Bucks being available to talk about my giving and local needs. Building a relationship is key for me, and it is much easier to form a relationship with a local, community-minded organisation than a national one. Heart of Bucks is a vessel for collating all the information that I need in a clear and concise way, allowing me to support local causes with confidence.

What would you say to someone thinking about setting up a fund with Heart of Bucks?

First of all I would simply say – it's been a great idea for me. There is no other organisation that I'm aware of, offering such good research capabilities and bespoke local knowledge. Heart of Bucks know what Buckinghamshire needs and can help you to make a difference.

Secondly, I would say, go and talk to them – preferably face to face (now we're allowed out again). Or ask them to put you in touch with another fund holder. By talking you'll find out whether their advice and support will help you meet your needs or aims. I'd be amazed if you didn't come away with fresh ideas on how to structure or target your giving.

"There is no other organisation that I'm aware of, offering such good research capabilities and bespoke local knowledge. Heart of Bucks know what Buckinghamshire needs and can help you to make a difference."

Why do you choose to give anonymously?

Remaining anonymous is a key factor in my charitable giving, unless I want to become actively involved in the operation or governance of a charity – which is a very different commitment to providing financial support. And I don't think you should be doing charitable giving to blow your own trumpet. I want time and space to consider priorities and to be able to change and evolve them. I don't want to be swamped and once you're on a mailing list you never seem to get off it, even with GDPR!

Maintaining anonymity by setting up an individual Heart of Bucks fund was an important aspect for me. Of course the most important aspect is ensuring donations and funding go to the right places and to those who need it most. As far as I'm concerned Heart of Bucks earn their keep by using their time, experience and resource to achieve that more efficiently than I could personally.

If you'd like to find out more about how Heart of Bucks can assist with your charitable giving please get in touch: giving@heartofbucks.org

OUR 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE TO READ ONLINE



Our annual report is now available to read online! The report is packed with stats and stories showcasing our impact across Buckinghamshire, our achievements and highlights, and also acknowledges the support of our partners and Community Investors.

We hope you enjoy reading it. If you would prefer a hard copy please email: marketing@heartofbucks.org and we will arrange for one to be posted out to you.

A big 'thank you' goes to Saffery Champness for sponsoring our annual report.

[READ OUR ANNUAL REPORT](#)

JOIN THE BUCKS FUNDING ALERT WHATSAPP GROUP

Be the first to hear about local funding opportunities!

Join the 'Bucks Funding Alert' WhatsApp group managed by Heart of Bucks and be the first to hear about our new funding opportunities for your charity or community group!

Please note: your profile picture and number will be visible to other members of the group. You can find out more about WhatsApp's privacy settings [here](#).



[CLICK HERE FROM YOUR PHONE TO JOIN THE WHATSAPP GROUP](#)

FUNDING ALERT: BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY 'HERE TO HELP'

The Buckinghamshire Building Society 2021 Here to Help Fund has been launched to help the people of Buckinghamshire recover from what has been an incredibly challenging time for many.



The Buckinghamshire Building Society are a mutually owned organisation, so giving back to the local community is at the heart of what they do. Over many years, they have created an endowment fund from their profits to support a consistent annual level of charitable giving. This year, they felt that it was the right time to significantly increase the level of contribution to support local voluntary and charitable organisations in their wonderful efforts to help the community to rebound from the difficulties of the recent crisis period.

The 2021 Here to Help Fund will be divided into two categories – one Award of £40,000 in addition to a total of £35,000 split into a number of smaller grants of up to £5,000 each.

The £40,000 Award will go towards helping those charities and not for profit organisations in the Health & Wellbeing sector, and the Small Grants Programme will support those most in need within the Community Cohesion and Isolation & Disadvantage categories.

Additional information about the funding available:

Theme of the funds: local people in need

LARGE AWARD

Grants available: £20,000 - £40,000

Projects/activities must:

- Provide a demonstrable and direct benefit for local people
- Relate to the impact category of 'health and wellbeing'

The grant awarded should either:

- Fund the total cost of the project/activity
- OR
- Fund a clearly defined aspect of a larger project activity

[MORE INFO & APPLY](#)

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Grants available: Up to £5,000

Projects/activities must:

- Provide a demonstrable and direct benefit for local people
- Relate to the impact category of 'community cohesion' or 'isolation and disadvantage'

Priority will be given to grants which:

- Fund the total cost of the project/activity
- OR
- Fund a clearly defined aspect of a larger project activity

[MORE INFO & APPLY](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Rectory Homes

Priorities for this fund are: Organisations that are working for the benefit of residents living within Aylesbury Vale, applications that demonstrate the organisation's ability to help those most in need within the community, applications where the grant makes up a minimum of 25% and maximum of 50% of the total cost of the project.

EOI deadline: 5th December **Application deadline:** 19th January



Help Us, Help You: Improving Cancer Outcomes

Working in partnership with the NHS, this fund supports not-for-profits to develop and deliver innovative and creative solutions to improve cancer outcomes, particularly for groups that traditionally have poorer health outcomes.

Grants of £1,000 to £7,500 are available,

This fund is currently ongoing and there is no application deadline.



Recovery & Awareness Fund

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: 15th December **Application deadline:** 19th January



Heart of Bucks general fund

Made up of a number of private funds with different priorities, HoB General may be suitable if your project does not fit any of our other specific funds. Heart of Bucks always acts in good faith in working with our donors and carries out due diligence checks on the sources of funding we make available.

We award grants of up to £5,000 to a broad range of causes and welcome applications from both new and established groups.

EOI deadline: 15th December **Application deadline:** 19th January



Green Schools Fund

This fund is open to primary and secondary schools and awards grants to support environmental projects initiated by the school's students. Funding is for environmental improvement schemes or services which are designed to: Reduce waste, improve biodiversity, reduce litter, reduce energy consumption and/or enhance community transport.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 19th January



Green Community Fund

This fund is open to voluntary and community groups and awards grants for projects designed to improve the environment and/or public spaces for the benefit of residents. For example: educational projects, environmental improvement schemes, increasing biodiversity, reducing carbon footprint, improving sustainability and/or enhancing community transport.

EOI deadline: 15th December **Application deadline:** 19th January



BBS Here to Help Fund – Small Grants Programme

Funding available for projects/activities which provide a demonstrable and direct benefit for local people and which relate to the impact category of either 'Community Cohesion' or 'Isolation & Disadvantage'. Priority will be given to projects/activities where the grant would either; fund the total cost of the project/activity OR fund a clearly defined aspect of a larger project/activity.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 24th November



BBS Here to Help Fund – Large Award

The key theme of this fund is 'Local People in Need'. Only one grant of between £20,000 and £40,000 is available. No partial awards will be made. Projects/activities must relate to the 'Health & Wellbeing' impact category. The grant must fund the total cost of the project/activity OR fund a clearly defined aspect of a larger project/activity.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 24th November

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply

SEEING IS BELIEVING WITH THE HIGH SHERIFF OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



On Thursday 23rd September a group of representatives from Heart of Bucks attended a 'Seeing is Believing' tour hearing presentations from two fantastic organisations and visiting two local charities to see their work in action.

The group included George Anson, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire for 2021/22 and his wife Kirsty Anson, together with Heart of Bucks staff and supporters.

The event began with a presentation from Hannah Asquith, CEO at Youth Concern, about the work they do to support vulnerable young people. This was followed by Susie Besant, CEO at One Eighty, who spoke about how they support and engage young people to live motivated and successful lives.

The group then visited Lindengate; a charity that offers specialist gardening activities for those with mental health needs. The group were given a tour of the five acre site and heard about the wide range of nature-based activities on offer to aid with recovery.

Finally the group visited the Healthy Living Centre for a spot of lunch before being given a tour of the centre, including the sensory room which is available for hire to families and local occupational therapists.

Thank you to all of the organisations who were involved in the event and to Chilterns Dial-a-ride for assisting with transport.

If you are interested in joining us for future Seeing is Believing events, please email: events@heartofbucks.org

HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

Support Heart of Bucks this festive season



Make a donation in lieu of Christmas cards

Simply make a donation of whatever you would normally pay for cards and postage.

Organise a Christmas jumper day

Simply collect a sum of money for people to wear their favourite Christmas jumper.



MAKE A DONATION ONLINE

If you would prefer to donate by BACS or cheque, or would like to speak to us about your donation please email: giving@heartofbucks.org

ARE YOU MARKING A SPECIAL OCCASION IN 2022?

2022

If you are marking a special occasion in 2022 such as a significant birthday or anniversary, why not consider supporting Heart of Bucks by requesting donations in lieu of presents?

Our online donation platform enables you to fundraise on our behalf. Whether you're an individual or a business, by supporting Heart of Bucks you can help to make a big impact on local communities in Buckinghamshire.

CLICK HERE TO SET UP A FUNDRAISING PAGE

View an example birthday fundraising page [here](#)

CHILTERN RANGERS DEVELOP WILDLIFE GARDENS FOR TWO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



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

The funding from this grant enabled Chiltern Rangers to work with two local organisations to develop wildlife gardens. Children, young people and adult volunteers were involved in the project which enabled them to learn new skills and gain a sense of fulfilment. Many of the volunteers were from disadvantaged backgrounds, and this project offered them a unique opportunity to broaden their experiences.

The first organisation supported was the Bucks Goat Centre, which is a family-friendly farm offering affordable experiences to young families in Aylesbury. The Heart of Bucks funding allowed Chiltern Rangers to transform Justin's Butterfly Garden at the Goat Centre over two days into a blooming sanctuary for both visitors and wildlife. Volunteers and staff worked tirelessly creating artwork, renovating planters, creating wildlife habitats and play areas over the two days.

Chiltern Rangers also worked with the Sue Nicholls Centre, a day hospital supporting children and young people who are suffering from mental health issues and their families. Their garden is a key component of this; it provides a haven for the children, young people and families visiting the hospital. Many of their service users explained that the garden reduces their anxiety in addition to providing their families with a relief space whilst they attend their appointments. Hospital staff also benefit from being able to visit the garden in their breaks to unwind. The project allowed many of the children to meet for the first time under Covid-safe conditions, which was hugely beneficiary for all involved.

Chiltern Rangers not only provided the initial support to develop the gardens, but they also briefed both organisations on how to tend and nurture their gardens on their own going forward.

Overall, 22 young people and 11 adults helped contribute over 94 hours of volunteering to help make this project possible. Incredibly, this funding will benefit over 30,000 people and will continue to do so for many years to come.

A GOOD THING: MATCHMAKING BUSINESSES WHO CARE WITH LOCAL CHARITIES



Are you a business that's keen to do good for your local community? Or a charity seeking donations that will build on the amazing work you're doing? A Good Thing is just what you need!

A Good Thing is a not-for-profit organisation, set up at the end of 2020. We make it easy for businesses to donate surplus equipment, products and space to local charities. Building a more sustainable world, where good things happen.

The concept is unbelievably simple: a business has something spare (anything from a used laptop or some office furniture to a spare meeting room or surplus products) and a local charity has a need. The charity has the ideas and dedication, but needs the resources to make it happen. We make the match! All using our simple matchmaking app, which takes seconds to register with.

It's honestly as easy as that: a business makes an offer, local charities make a request, and a match is made!

We've been really pleased with the success of our Thames Valley pilot, and have made some amazing matches over the past six months, but we think this is the moment we've been waiting for. A Good Thing will really come into its own with the return to the workplace for so many people.

Many people will be going back into workplaces that are now much changed. Firms will be looking for ways to do things differently, move things around, and start again. For some, there will be furniture and equipment that's no longer needed, and for others it'll just be a great time to de-clutter. Don't let these items end up in landfill – this is a fantastic opportunity to donate them to a brilliant local charity that will make use of them.

Remember, it's so easy to get involved: just go to www.agoodthing.org.uk/#get-started and click on 'Sign up'. It takes literally a few seconds to register your firm with us, and then you can post the item you'd like to donate and do A Good Thing. Your local charities will love you for it!

Matchmaking businesses who care with amazing local charities

We make it easy for businesses to offer surplus equipment, products and space to local charities.

A GOOD THING

Click the image below to donate online



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Get in touch

giving@heartofbucks.org

grants@heartofbucks.org



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