

WINTER NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2022

£93,000 AWARDED IN CRISIS FUNDING IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS

Heart of Bucks manages a variety of crisis funds which award grants to vulnerable individuals and families. In the past few months alone, we have awarded £93,224 to those most in need within our county.

From purchasing essentials such as food and winter clothes, to helping with fuel bills, the grants awarded have helped 135 local people or families.

We are still anticipating a huge increase in requests for fuel-related funding as the impact of the recent increases in energy costs feeds through into winter fuel bills.

[Please click here to donate](#)

Continued on page 2

Also in this issue...

- Blog post: Is the UK in the midst of an energy crisis?
- Inspiring Buckinghamshire series continues
- Interview: ASM on corporate giving
- Buckinghamshire Building Society award £75k from their Here to Help fund
- Is your business celebrating a significant anniversary this year?
- £64k raised from the Helping Hand for Afghanistan appeal
- Funding opportunities: Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and £100k to address health inequalities

Plus more!

CAN YOU HELP LOCAL PEOPLE IN A CRISIS?

We received 15 new crisis fund applications in the first two working days this year. Help us continue supporting vulnerable people in Buckinghamshire today.

Examples of grants awarded include:

- £28 to buy hot water bottles and blankets for an older, physically disabled lady who had left her home due to domestic abuse
- £404 which will support a seven person, four-generational household including a five month old baby, a pregnant woman and four people with respiratory illness. The award will help to heat the shared home and buy hot water bottles, two winter weight duvets and coats for the baby and pregnant woman
- £136 to enable a young single mother with a three month old baby to buy a snowsuit for her son and a coat for herself, plus a heater, winter duvet and hot water bottle
- £175 for a 78 year old man living in a caravan, to provide an electric blanket, oil-filled radiator, thermal socks and a microwaveable wheat bag

CLICK HERE TO DONATE



IS THE UK IN THE MIDST OF AN ENERGY CRISIS?

Dan Cope, our Ambassador for the Environment, talks about the current situation in his most recent blog post.

According to National Energy Action (NEA), around 10,000 people die in the UK through living in cold homes. We are one of the richest nations in the world, yet losing life through a simple lack of heat. It is heart-wrenching; it is a true crisis. It is not just those who die that suffer. Four million households are living in fuel poverty: one out of every six UK homes.

Whether we call it a crisis, a price increase, inflation, a change in markets, bad luck or bad planning, the end result will be the same; the most vulnerable in our society are, and will, continue to suffer.

[Click here to read Dan's blog post in full.](#)



'Inspiring Buckinghamshire' gives local people from a range of sectors a chance to share their knowledge and insights to help inspire others.

Click a photo below to read more...



Dr Nighat Arif

NHS GP / Resident doctor on BBC Breakfast & This Morning

"I grew up knowing that I wanted to be educated so that I could be free from the shackles of being someone's daughter or someone's wife. I wanted to have achievements in my own right. I have had to stay strong against misogyny and internalised misogyny from a society where the value of a woman's work is not as prized as a man's."



Max Hailey

Chief Operating Officer, Calibre Audio

"I would like a bigger conversation around the education provision at secondary school level. Everyone in Buckinghamshire deserves the right to a quality education and I increasingly see the 11+ system benefiting the few and not the majority. On the flip side, we have a high proportion of students attending good quality universities but they never return to the county leaving us with a drain of talent due to the cost of living."



I. Stephanie Boyce

President, The Law Society

"I come from a single parent, working-class background, a British-born daughter of Caribbean immigrants. I went to a comprehensive school having failed the selective exam and worked in a variety of jobs, including as a postwoman, before embarking on my law degree. Time and time again I was told that because of my low socio-economic status I would never have a career in law, but it is amazing what you can achieve when you are determined and resilient."

Do you know someone inspiring?

Email us at marketing@heartofbucks.org to find out more about taking part in our Inspiring Buckinghamshire series

CHOOSE HEART OF BUCKS FOR YOUR CORPORATE GIVING



We recently caught up with Paul McDonagh from ASM Auto Recycling and spoke to him about why they have partnered with Heart of Bucks for their corporate giving.



Tell us about how your business is involved in supporting the local community.

We have two main businesses – ASM Auto Recycling and ASM Metal Recycling - and historically, we have always contributed to charitable causes to varying degrees on an ad hoc basis. Our involvement with Heart of Bucks goes back some 15 years and during that time we have supported many local organisations through our partnership. We now give monthly to their Community Investor Fund which makes grants to a wide range of good causes, and in addition, we also offer financial support through ad hoc corporate sponsorship.

We are also active supporters of several other local activities. We love sport and have been the main sponsors of Thame United Football Club for 12 years, the gold sponsors of Chinnor Rugby Club for numerous years, as well as key sponsors of the Owen Racing Team for eight years. We also support the local Thame fireworks display, donate the town's Christmas tree every year, and we were proud to show our support for the NHS and the Florence Nightingale hospice during the pandemic. A huge number of people worked so hard during this extremely challenging period, and we felt compelled to contribute to show our heartfelt appreciation.

Why is giving back important to your business?

We are a family run business, and we always try to keep that ethos at the very heart of what we do. We know that our employees value working somewhere that takes a genuine interest in the communities we are based in. As a business it is, of course, important to make money and be successful, but we have always had a good moral conscience and have always tried to "do our bit" whenever and wherever possible. Giving back to the community is now a fundamental part of ASM's corporate ideology and getting positive feedback about the impact of our donations for local people and local causes makes it ever so rewarding.

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Why does working with a Community Foundation suit your business?

Our partnership with Heart of Bucks is now well established and has always been a very positive and rewarding experience. There are so many great and deserving causes out there that it can sometimes be hard to know where to give most effectively. Heart of Bucks knows the local charity landscape better than anyone, so they are perfectly placed to identify where the need is greatest. We like knowing that we can support multiple charities and activities through one local organisation.

“Heart of Bucks knows the local charity landscape better than anyone, so they are perfectly placed to identify where the need is greatest.”

What would you say to other businesses thinking about giving back to their local community?

Just do it – everyone's a winner! I would strongly recommend talking to Heart of Bucks to advise you about the options available for local giving. It's very straightforward and you can be confident that your donations are being put to great use within your local community.

From all at Heart of Bucks, thank you ASM for your ongoing support

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY INVESTORS



Organisations and businesses whose fundraising and donations make an impact on the local communities and charities in Buckinghamshire are awarded with the Heart of Bucks 'Community Investor' badge. These valued, responsible and caring companies work closely with Heart of Bucks, 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.

If you would like to find out more about how we can support your organisation's charitable giving, please contact us at:

giving@heartofbucks.org or call 01296 330134

BUCKS BUILDING SOCIETY AWARD £75K

We are pleased to report that the Buckinghamshire Building Society 'Here to Help' fund was fully spent at their recent panel, awarding £75,000 to a number of local charities and community groups.



"Sincere thanks to the team at Heart of Bucks and all those who have been involved with our Here to Help Fund. We were very impressed with the dedication, expertise and diligence of the Grants Panel and we are very grateful for their hard work. As a result, our funds are reaching through to the most deserving causes across Buckinghamshire to ensure a real impact in the areas we set out to support. We look forward to seeing these projects coming to life and doing more similar things in the future with the help of our friends at Heart of Bucks."

– Gerard O'Keeffe, CEO at Buckinghamshire Building Society

IS YOUR BUSINESS CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

There are at least 100 businesses in Buckinghamshire celebrating a significant anniversary this year – are you one of them? Why not support Heart of Bucks to mark the occasion and make a difference locally?

Whether it is 10 years, 25, 50 or more, as your local community foundation, Heart of Bucks is positioned as the custodian of choice for organisations that want to ensure their charitable giving is effective and helping those most in need in our county.

Each organisation we support is assessed by our grants team and provides a detailed application on how their grant is going to be spent. Amongst the hundreds of charities and community groups we work with, many smaller organisations are doing vital (but largely unpublicised) work requiring funding.

There are numerous ways your company can mark the special occasion, including:

- Making a donation
- Fundraising activities by your staff team (which you could also choose to match fund). This could incorporate team-building activities and fundraisers such as 'Win an extra day's holiday' competition or a sponsored 'Swap with the CEO for the day'
- Donating a percentage of your sales of a particular item or service. See example [here](#)
- Using an anniversary event to raise funds in a fun way, such as stand-up bingo or bring your pet to work day

By supporting Heart of Bucks you would be part of our Community Investor initiative which highlights the proactive CSR of local organisations through our website and social media channels.

Get in touch today: giving@heartofbucks.org | 01296 330134

£64K RAISED FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

We are pleased to report that over £64,000 has been raised through the Helping Hand for Afghanistan appeal to provide emergency and long-term support direct to the refugees sheltered in our wonderful county.

Heart of Bucks worked in close partnership with Buckinghamshire Council to coordinate the collection of donations from across our communities to support newly arrived Afghan refugees – a huge thank you to everyone who donated to the appeal.

Families have started to be received into Buckinghamshire and are being supported as they integrate themselves into the local community. We have awarded a number of grants so far and will continue to support these families as they settle into their new lives.



helpinghand
for Afghanistan

The grants awarded have been used for a variety of different purposes, including:

- Translation of a welcome pack with essential information, to help families navigate their new life in Buckinghamshire, into Pashto and Dari
- Purchase of household essentials such as mattresses and bedding, towels, and basic kitchen equipment (utensils, pans, dustbin/cleaning equipment)
- Purchase of children's items such as bedding and footwear
- Emergency support for food
- Purchase of bus fares for a pregnant lady to be able to attend hospital

We are also delighted to share that the lovely messages left by donors to welcome the refugees to Buckinghamshire were translated into Pashto and Dari and shared with the families.

Helping Hand for Afghanistan is one of three crisis funds for individuals and families managed by Heart of Bucks. We are continuing to raise funds for Winter Warmth to help those facing fuel poverty, and Family Angels for families in crisis.

Further details on these funds can be found here: [Winter Warmth](#) | [Family Angels](#).

“

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, Martin Tett, said:

“The rapid response of Heart of Bucks allowed us to channel all the wonderful community offers. The immediacy in which the Helping Hand for Afghanistan Crisis Fund was established enabled our local community to easily contribute to this very worthy cause as events unfolded in the media. The collaboration made it simple and accessible for not only donations, but also the amazing offers from landlords and a wide range of support packages.”

”

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



*A message from
HM Lord Lieutenant
of Buckinghamshire*

"It is so exciting to know that this year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. To mark this epic reign the whole country and the Commonwealth is invited to become involved.

What better way can there be for us to acknowledge and recognise the dedication and devotion to duty of The Queen than by taking part in the legacy activities of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations? The two funds, ACE Let's Create and The Green Future Fund, are both wonderful examples of how Heart of Bucks has opened up opportunities for community participation.

I encourage each and every one of us to see whether we can, through our own personal actions, add to the poignant and powerful celebrations of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee."

ACE Let's Create Jubilee Fund

The Let's Create Jubilee Fund will support new creative and cultural activities as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Culture and creativity come in all shapes and sizes, so we do not want to be too prescriptive about what form projects could take; it's more important for you to consider how to deliver creative and cultural activity that your local communities will want to take part in, and to find a partner who can help you deliver it.

To be eligible, projects should engage with at least one of the artforms which ACE supports through its funding. These are: Music, theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, Combined arts – including festivals and carnivals, museum and library activities.

Grants will be available from £750 to £10,000. We can part fund a project if the overall cost is more than you are applying for. The closing date for applications is midday 14th February.
[Click here for more info and to apply.](#)



Green Future Bucks

Our friends at the Rothschild Foundation have generously provided additional funding into the Green Future Bucks initiative to help facilitate tree planting in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year.

Green Future Bucks was set up by Buckinghamshire Council to provide dedicated funding to positively impact the environment and public spaces in the county through the Green Community Fund and the Green Schools Fund.

Grant sizes vary depending on the fund. The deadline for EOIs is midday 18th May (Green Schools only) and full applications midday 8th June.

Please click for more info and to apply: [Green Schools Fund](#) | [Green Community Fund](#)

£100,000 AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUALITIES



The purpose of this fund is to address one or more health inequalities that impact on the life expectancy and quality of life for some people from ethnic minority communities, across our county.

For the purpose of this fund, Health Inequalities are defined as avoidable and systematic differences in health between different groups of people.

Health inequalities can involve differences such as:

- Health status, for example, life expectancy and prevalence of physical and mental health conditions
- Access to care, for example, availability of treatments
- Quality and experience of care, for example, levels of patient satisfaction
- Behavioural risks to health, for example, smoking rates
- Wider determinants of health, for example, quality of housing

Examples of projects that could be funded include:

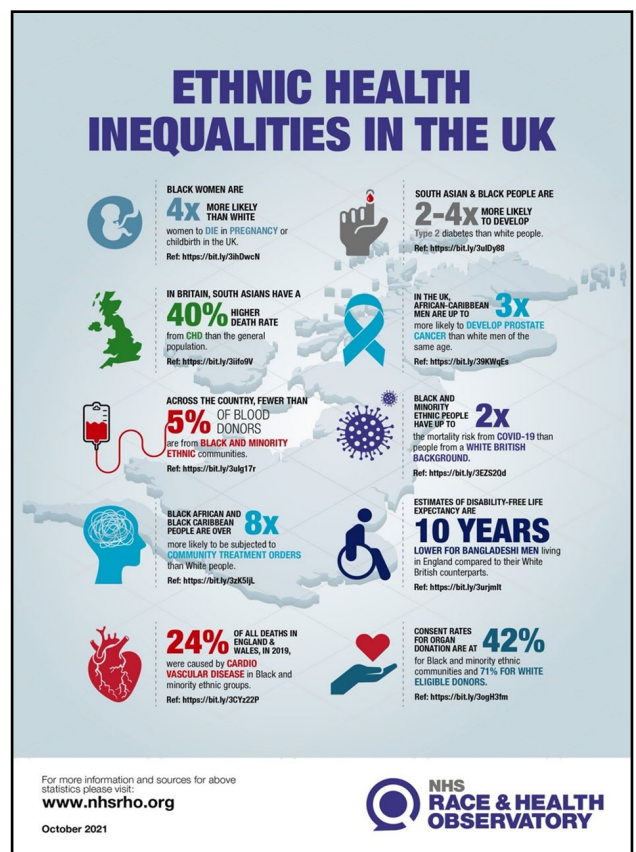
- Improved culturally relevant information, advice, guidance and support for healthy lifestyles
- Programmes to manage higher risk conditions for ethnic minority groups
- Health and wellbeing education or awareness raising projects
- Support for the empowerment of women and girls
- Improved cultural awareness for those providing existing health and wellbeing services
- Advocacy support to access to or navigate pathways within existing health and wellbeing services
- Projects that improve skills and employability or volunteering

Grants are available up to £15,000. The deadline for applications is midday 6th April.

Please click here for more information and to apply

This infographic shows some of the ways in which these inequalities have an impact on health for people from different ethnic groups.

(Click to enlarge)



OUR CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING



On Sunday 5th December, six happy Santas completed the Marlow Santa Fun Run. The team were joined by over 2,500 fellow Santas in completing the 5k and braving the weather for a variety of brilliant causes.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored us. We raised over £500 which enabled us to also qualify for a share of the 'charity pool' taking the total raised up to £980.



Thank you to the Rotary Club of Aylesbury for inviting us to join them again on their Santa float - we had a lovely evening getting into the Christmas spirit and spreading some festive magic!

Together we raised £600 which will go to our Family Angels fund; providing one-off financial support to help restore stability to families who are experiencing a short-term crisis.

JOIN OUR 'SEEING IS BELIEVING' TOUR

Are you interesting in joining one of our upcoming 'Seeing is Believing' tours?

We are currently planning our Spring events and would love to hear from you if you would like to learn more about the local charities and community groups we support.

Our 'Seeing is Believing' tours involve visiting a handful of charities and hearing first-hand about the fantastic work they are doing for communities in Buckinghamshire.

**If you would like to register your interest or find out more please email:
events@heartofbucks.org**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEREK!



A big thank you from all at Heart of Bucks to Derek Vere and his generous friends and family who together raised £4,780 after Derek kindly asked for donations in lieu of presents for his 75th birthday.

The money raised will help to make a big difference to local communities in Buckinghamshire.

IMPACT STORY: CHILTERN MS CENTRE



Project: Core cost funding to support people living with Multiple Sclerosis

Grant: £9,600

Fund: Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund

Impact category: Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

The Chilterns MS Centre are a charity providing treatment, tools, knowledge and a community of health professionals and peers to empower people living with Multiple Sclerosis. Each month, the charity delivers 765 hours of therapy, classes and advice to almost 500 members.

Like countless other charities, the pandemic hit the centre hard. But through an immense amount of perseverance, hard work, and dedication, they managed to provide an incredible service network to all of their service users despite temporarily closing their centre.

The charity provided a comprehensive remote support package for their users, which included a huge variety of services including: telephone welfare checks, group exercise classes and social activities on Zoom and expansion of their buddy scheme.

The charity began seeking funding to support its recovery through 2021. The importance of core cost funding cannot be understated, as so many charities throughout Buckinghamshire had their cash reserves decimated as they struggled to survive the pandemic with an understandable drop in funding. Charities desperately need core cost funding as, without it, they would cease operations leaving many of their service users in desperate situations.

With support from Heart of Bucks, the charity paid for all of their utility bills from March to July, just as many of their service users were beginning to return to the centre.

Service user feedback: Jane

"I have this for life and that can feel oppressing. But I just want to concentrate on what I can do day to day to be able to live independently and work for as long as possible. I'm lucky because my work is really supportive of my situation. I don't suffer with fatigue too much and I think this is because they let me take time away to have my oxygen treatment every week at the Centre.

Sadly the NHS don't have long term care available for people with MS and the Centre fills that gap. It's a brilliant place to go and to be part of. It's reassuring to be around people who know exactly what you are going through. It makes you feel like you're not alone. The MS Centre is so amazing for putting people in touch with other people and I've met lots of friends there."

NEW FORUMS FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO NETWORK & DISCUSS LOCAL NEEDS

Community Impact Bucks is hosting a series of online forums in February (14th/16th/17th) for Bucks-based charities, voluntary and community groups, and social enterprises to share information and collaborate on the local issues that matter most.

Open to individuals and groups involved in the voluntary sector in the three Community Board localities of North, South and Central, the Local Voluntary Sector Network forums will provide an informal space where attendees can discuss local needs and explore opportunities for change in their communities.

At the first forums, attendees will hear from their local Community Board team about the priorities they have identified, and join the discussion on how charities, voluntary and community groups, Community Boards and others can work together.

For more information and to book, click on the relevant forum based on your location:

Local Voluntary Sector Network



Central Bucks: 14th February 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)

Northern Bucks: 16th February 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)

Southern Bucks: 17th February 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)

FLOOD RESILIENCE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITIES

Community Impact Bucks is running a series of six training sessions for Bucks residents who would like to develop their community's resilience to emergencies such as flooding, snow, other severe weather events or utilities failures.

During the online training sessions (2 February – 8 March 2022), attendees will find out what community resilience means and what it could look like, how to develop an action plan, and also how to apply for a grant from the Heart of Bucks [Flood Recovery and Awareness Fund](#).

The two-hour training sessions are free, held via Zoom and are for residents particularly from: Chesham; Aylesbury/ Weston Turville/ Wendover; Marlow/ Little Marlow/ Bisham; Chalfonts and Missendens; Buckingham/ River Ouse; and Hughenden Valley/ Radnage.

For more information and to book, visit [Community Impact Bucks' Training and Events](#) and select the relevant location.

BUCKS BUSINESS FIRST NEWS

"BUSINESSES MUST LEAVE NO DOOR UNOPENED"

Research shows that 75% of disabled people have turned their backs on a business because of poor accessibility and have experienced barriers on websites they visit, often clicking away from inaccessible sites. High street shops, restaurants and pubs are among those missing out financially because disabled people are missing out on their services.

VISIT
Buckinghamshire
boost

Poor accessibility in a digital, physical or sensory way can further isolate people who may already be among the more isolated in our communities, and lead to reviews that turn one person's bad experience into a collective decision to avoid a certain place. Businesses cannot afford to close their doors – literally or figuratively – to potential customers.

Last year, Visit Buckinghamshire hosted disability advocate Sophie Morgan, herself a wheelchair user, who campaigns for better representation for disabled people, especially in the travel sector. One stop on Sophie's trip was Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a renowned charity that trains dogs to become life-long companions and support for the hearing impaired, who designed the acoustics in their restaurant to enhance the listening experience of customers with deafness or hearing loss. This chimes with how Aylesbury Waterside Theatre puts on 'relaxed performances' of productions to ensure the experience is safe and enjoyable for those with learning or sensory disabilities.

Another place Sophie visited - the Paralympic Heritage Museum, where she learnt about Dr Guttman, the founder of the Paralympic Games - shows the great history that Buckinghamshire has in terms of innovating in the name of accessibility, but also the legacy that needs to be upheld in the Birthplace of the Paralympics.

While Sophie's visit made clear that Buckinghamshire has plenty to offer disabled people, it did highlight some shortcomings in the overall range of destinations and activities open to wheelchair users, while there will be other gaps in provision for those who come under the broad 'neurodiverse' banner, like those with challenges such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, epilepsy and Tourette's.

Ideally, there would be nothing unique about creating accessible services and destinations, but at this moment accessibility can be a real USP for a business. Our visitor economy has been hit hard by recent events – it's vital to leave no stone unturned, and no door unopened, in pursuit of recovery and growth.

Buckinghamshire Business First has support available for tourism, hospitality and leisure businesses, including 'Visit Buckinghamshire: Boost' – a new programme that can help with advice on making a business more accessible.

For more information:

www.bbf.uk.com/boost | boost@bbf.uk.com | 01494 927130

Join the Bucks Funding Alert WhatsApp group

Be the first to hear about our new funding opportunities for your charity or community group!



[Click here from your phone to join the WhatsApp group](#)

"There are so many places to check for funding, and I'm always worried I'll miss something. The Heart of Bucks WhatsApp group is great because we know we'll never miss a funding announcement."

– Lee Lloyd
Florence Nightingale Hospice

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 the image below to donate online



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