



 **Heart of Bucks**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024



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 supporters, 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 Community Foundation is a grant-making charity that connects people who care with causes that matter.

We deliver funding from individuals, businesses and public sector organisations to not-for-profit groups, families and individuals in Buckinghamshire.

Since we made our first grant in 2000, Heart of Bucks has awarded more than £15 million to over 6,000 local charities and community groups.

Heart of Bucks continues to be a catalyst for social change, enabling and encouraging local giving and community philanthropy. Through a programme of informed and targeted funding and advice, we're helping to make our community a better place to live, work, play and do business.

The Community Foundation network

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.



Chair & CEO's message



We are pleased to have the opportunity to reflect on our work during the 2023-24 financial year with you, our supporters, volunteers, donors, stakeholders, and beneficiaries.

Our grant-making activities during this past year have surpassed £2m, for our second largest ever distribution. During a very challenging financial year for the charity sector, this continuing scale of flexible funding into the sector is extremely important. For this, we must say a huge thank you directly to our committed donors and fund holders, without whom our work would not be possible. We are incredibly grateful for the significant resources of both time and money that you make available to us, enabling us to meet some of the growing local needs, across a range of issues.

Of particular note was a match-funding campaign, launched and facilitated by The Mulberry Trust at an event at Chequers in March. Thanks to the generosity of The Mulberry Trust and our donors, we are delighted to have raised over £2.6m in just six months, vital funding to support the community in Buckinghamshire, both today and tomorrow. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to raise such significant funds in such a short space of time!

This year, we also launched our 'Young Futures Fund', a participatory grants programme aimed at supporting the next generation in Buckinghamshire. Providing grants to local non-profit organisations, as well as bursaries directly to young people, this project is governed directly by a committed group of local young people, aged between 16 and 30. This project is designed to provide opportunities for local people to be directly involved in co-designing how our grant funding for children and young people is delivered.

Recognising that the cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated financial challenges for many households in the county, we also launched our 'Together Against Poverty' campaign, raising funds to support growing deprivation in Buckinghamshire. Making grants to both financially insecure households, and the charities that support them, this funding programme is making a difference for many. Thank you to our partners, our volunteer Community Advocates, and stakeholders like Buckinghamshire Council, for working so closely with us on this important work.

We know that Buckinghamshire has complex geography, economy, and demographics. It is important that we understand the challenges and opportunities faced locally. To that end, our 'Buckinghamshire: Uncovered' project continues to grow, highlighting issues of particular local importance, including youth skills, ageing well, air quality, and more. Through a series of written analysis, webinars, and community forums, this engagement has developed and will continue through 2024 and 2025.

We are looking forward in earnest to celebrating our 25th Anniversary in 2025, focusing on the many wonderful grassroots community groups we have supported during the last quarter-century. We look forward to working with you all, to create a culture of giving that strengthens and support communities throughout Buckinghamshire.

Moir Stewart, Chair of Trustees
Henry Allmand, CEO

End of year figures

For year end 31st March 2024

£3.8 million

Income this year

£12.1 million

Long-term investments

£2.02 million

Awarded in grants

£535,376

Awarded in grants to individuals and families

£5,680

Average grant awarded to community groups

£923

Average grant awarded to individuals and families

1,490

Number of individuals supported

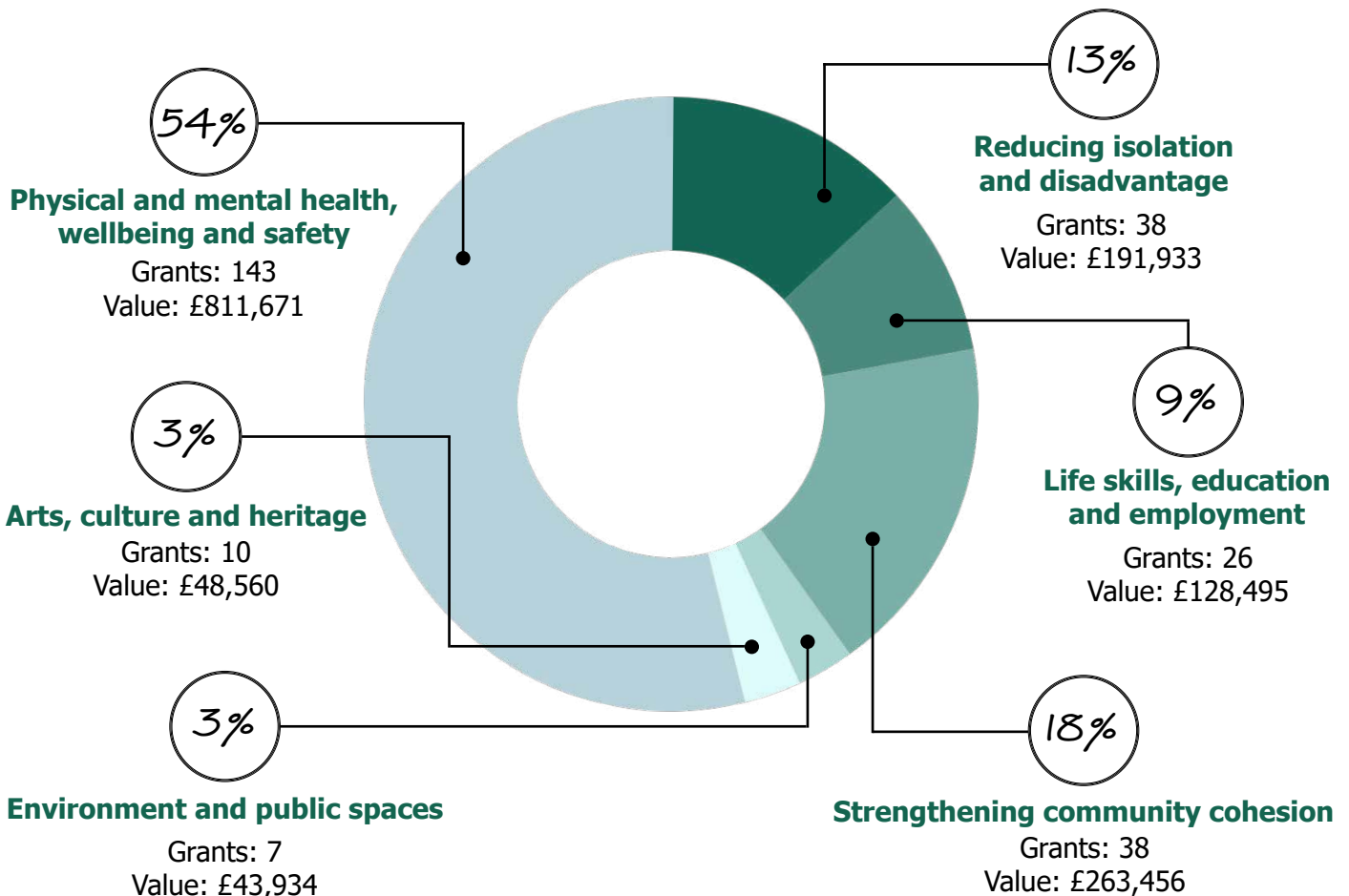
842

Total number of grants awarded

262

Organisations supported

Grants awarded to groups by impact category



Achievements

Over

£2m

awarded in grant
funding during
2023/2024

Over

£15.5m

awarded since our
foundation was
established in 2000

Other highlights for the year

We launched the **Young Futures Fund**, a partnership of local organisations and people, dedicated to funding the aspirations and dreams of young individuals across Buckinghamshire.

We took over stewardship of **John Bedford's Charity**, which was founded in 1494.

The first round of grants were awarded from our **Young People's Wellbeing Fund** totalling £94,000, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

The Mulberry Trust sponsored an event on our behalf at **Chequers** to launch our 25th anniversary celebrations.

Since March we've raised over

£2.6m

thanks to the Mulberry Trust and other generous supporters through our Chequers match-funding challenge.

Our long-standing fund with local law firm **B P Collins** reached **£100,000** in grants awarded to the local community.

We **launched our Vital Voices forums**, providing opportunities for small charities and community groups to have their voices heard by large funders and decision-makers.

We **expanded our Buckinghamshire Uncovered project** to encompass forums, reports and webinars which shine a light on our county of contrast.

We launched **Together Against Poverty** to provide essential one-off grants to help households experiencing severe hardship and distress.

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. In 2023/24 we welcomed seven new Community Investors.



Feedback

"I have to say that joining Heart of Bucks has been one of the best decisions we have ever made. It has given us access to a huge variety of different areas of need. Heart of Bucks has done most of the work, and we have been left to enjoy our relationship with them."

- James and Elsie Frost
The Mulberry Trust

"Thank you to Heart of Bucks and your donors. The grant gave us such a boost (financially and to our morale) and has enabled us to provide a lifeline to families living in Aylesbury Vale who are asking for help."

- Nest Aylesbury Vale

"Heart of Bucks have been a huge support to our ongoing work and we are insanely grateful for every different funding stream we have had the opportunity to apply for and the many times we have been supported. They continue to show interest in what we are doing and show just as much passion to help vulnerable young people as we do."

- Wycombe Youth Action

"Thank you very much. I know I sound like a broken record but this fund is so incredibly special and with such a complex and difficult case, I am in awe and hugely appreciative. It helps more than I can articulate."

- Community Advocate

"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

"Heart of Bucks is an organisation that is ready to listen and to explain, and we are very grateful for this in an environment that is inherently complex and changing."

- Chilterns Dial-a-Ride

Together Against Poverty

Since 2015, Heart of Bucks has provided funding to individuals and families struggling with the cost of daily life. Demand for this kind of support has increased and in 2023/24 we distributed over £2,000 every working day to those in poverty in our community.

To continue our unique work to support those experiencing poverty in our county, we launched Together Against Poverty. This appeal replaces our Crisis Appeal and Winter Warmth to provide essential one-off grants to help households experiencing severe hardship and distress, including food, shelter, fuel or digital poverty.

£2,000

awarded every day to those in poverty

The largest proportion of our crisis funding went to:



Housing costs
(36%)



Energy and water
(35%)



Food
(11%)

Our grants provide quick access to valuable financial support to help individuals and families out of difficult situations, and helps them to rebuild their lives. Our unique system of referrals from Community Advocates – front-line experts – helps us to reach those most in need and ensure all funding is making a real difference. In some circumstances, we may also fund charitable organisations working directly with local people experiencing poverty and disadvantage.

**together
against
poverty.**



Young Futures Fund

Over the course of 2023, we became increasingly concerned about the enduring impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the young people in our community. Report after report referenced issues such as increased:

Mental health or wellbeing concerns
Loneliness and isolation
Social media or online pressure

The UK Youth report along with many others encouraged decision-makers to “create meaningful opportunities for young people to have their voices heard”.

Our Board of Trustees were very supportive of the need to make a difference in this area. We started to explore the appetite for a youth-led programme operating through Heart of Bucks. Following some initial exploratory conversations, we were delighted to learn that a number of our supporters were willing to embark on this journey with us.



The Young Futures Board



The Board worked together to identify the issues they wanted to target for the first round of grant-making. They agreed that the over-arching purpose of their fund would be to improve the quality of life for children and young people from birth to age 30 in the Buckinghamshire area.

The criteria the Board set for their first grant making programme included:

- Tackling discrimination and bullying
- Healthy eating
- Safe spaces for recreation
- Budgeting and debt management
- Vaping awareness

After the first round of funding we have awarded:

13 grants

Totalling
£49,270

8,681
beneficiaries

Bucks Data Exchange

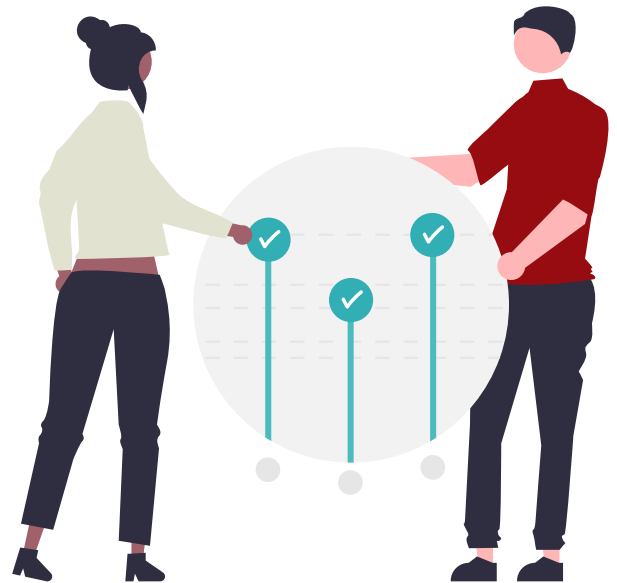


Heart of Bucks are pleased to be hosting the Bucks Data Exchange - an open-access platform containing the latest insights about Buckinghamshire

By making high quality data more accessible, the Bucks Data Exchange aims to help Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations identify how to have the biggest impact and make better informed decisions.

Local organisations hold a wealth of rich data that can inform decision making, but until now there has been no open-access public platform for bringing all this information together.

The Bucks Data Exchange provides a home for this data, making it easier and simpler to access insights in one place. It opens up local and national data for social purpose organisations and encourages active citizenship from individuals and communities.



bucksdataexchange.org

The Bucks Data Exchange is a collaborative platform and project delivered by:



Buckinghamshire Uncovered

Our 'Buckinghamshire: Uncovered' report series aims to lift the lid on some of the challenges faced locally. By delving into the data and statistics, as well as personal anecdotes and stories, we are painting a comprehensive picture of the county today.

The Office for National Statistics reports that there are no indicators they measure where the county of Buckinghamshire scores below the median average. But scratch the surface and there are parts of our county which suffer from the same entrenched social problems found in areas across the UK. We believe that looking at Buckinghamshire through the lens of county-wide averages means that some places, people, and issues are often ignored or overlooked. Buckinghamshire's most disadvantaged households are victims of this reliance on averages, generated from communities that are vastly different in so many ways.

Read the reports below in full on our website under impact

Our Ageing Population

Older people play an intrinsic, vibrant, and pivotal role across our county. We uncover statistics relating to our older population, highlight future challenges, and showcase opportunities within our communities that empower the lives of our older population.

Cost of Living Crisis

Buckinghamshire is often portrayed as an affluent county but the cost of living crisis is clearly reflected across our county. This report covers geographical inequalities, financial insecurities, housing costs, energy and food poverty being experienced by the people who call Bucks home.

Air Quality & the Environment

Air quality is an integral part of our wider environment and ecosystems and can have a direct effect on personal wellbeing and health. We look at the impact our air quality is having on the Buckinghamshire environment, actions being taken to improve things and what more we could be doing.

Homelessness

Everyone deserves a warm and safe home. However, not everyone has access to suitable and affordable housing. This report seeks to highlight the complexities surrounding homelessness and uncover the growing crisis that often remains unseen within Buckinghamshire.

Youth, Skills & Employment

Despite a strong economic and business-focused track record, there are underlying skills challenges facing many children and young people. In this report we focus on the key obstacles currently facing Buckinghamshire's future workforce.





Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

Southcourt Baptist Church

Project: Community Boxing Club

Grant: £2,000

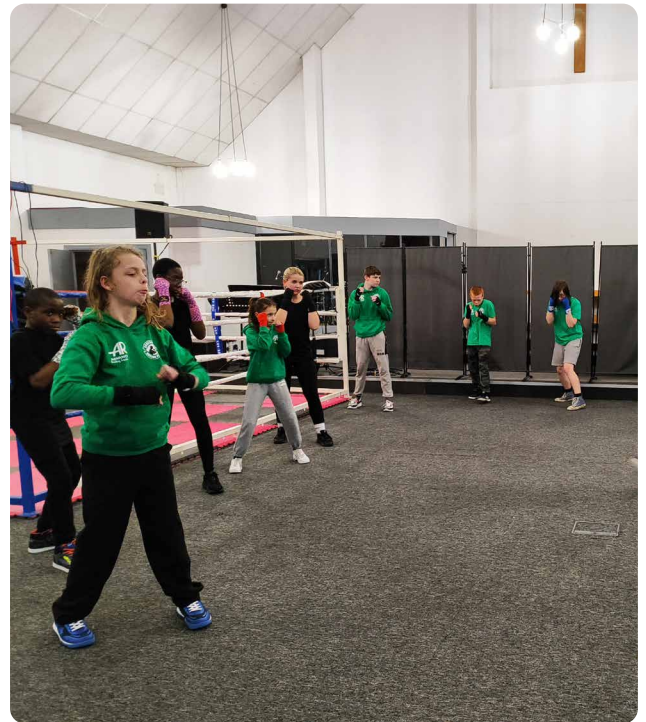
The boxing club, run by Southcourt Baptist Church, combines exercise, nutritional advice and discipline to empower their students in learning the skills and techniques of boxing, as well as the art of respect towards fellow students and coaches.

They have over 175 students on their register, averaging 45 children and 18 adults at their weekly session. Their hope is to introduce a second day for some of the more advanced students to improve their skills.

This funding was used to send students on a level one England Boxing coaching course. Helping the boxing club with more trained members but also giving them a qualification to add to their CV. The funding was also used for running costs of the boxing club, such as room hire.

"We keep an eye on our students and if they are not around for four weeks we make contact with them to find out if everything is okay and to see if they still want to be part of the club."

- Graham Clarke, Community Pastor



Case study:

Josh is 12 and has cerebral palsy. At first he struggled to keep up with the other children at the club, but the coaches mentored him and provided one-on-one training sessions. Over time he became stronger, his balance improved and his confidence grew, helping him to integrate more with other students and make friends.

In September he won student of the month due to his incredible determination and huge transformation at the club.

Movers & Shakers Castlefield

Project: Physical and mental activities for elderly residents

Grant: £2,350

This grant was used to fund a year's worth of weekly sessions for elderly residents. Each week participants were able to choose from an array of physical and mental activities as a means of keeping well. This included an hour craft activity organised by a member, and an hour fitness class, provided by trained fitness instructor.



"The exercises help as I am disabled, they help me stay strong and live independently. As I live on my own and don't see many people throughout the week, the group enables me to meet people socially. The crafts help me learn new skills and keeps my mind active." – Kath

Intergenerational Music Making

Project: Youth-led intergenerational training sessions and workshops

Grant: £9,000

This youth social action project invited young people from less affluent communities to plan, deliver and evaluate a youth-led intergenerational project.

The grant has enabled Intergeneration Music Making to expand their reach into Chesham, Denham and Wycombe. Through workshops and reflection sessions they have been able to bridge the gap between different age groups and have reported a profound impact on older adults living with dementia or those who are isolated.



Case study:

Daisy* is 78 years old, has onset dementia and lives in a care home. She initially came across as very confused at the sessions, didn't enjoy the noise and asked to go back to her room. After half a dozen sessions she began asking 'where are the children?' and the children would make the effort to talk with her and even getting her up to dance with them. As the sessions progressed she became more involved, using the song actions and musical instruments. Daisy was no longer upset or confused and there was a marked change in her behaviour for the better; she would regularly ask 'when is the music coming back?'

*name changed



Reducing isolation & disadvantage

Denham Garden Village Residents Association

Project: Silver Sunday

Grant: £750

Silver Sunday is an event for retired residents of Denham Garden Village. The social event included activities, music and afternoon tea and brought together 100 residents.

The aim of the event is to celebrate older people's lives as well as foster new friendships and combat loneliness.

At the event, a 94 year old resident enjoyed performing in front of her peers, which 'brought back childhood memories' for her.



ACT Self-defence

Project: Self-defence awareness and practical skills for female students

Grant: £6,500

The aim of ACT Self-defence is to provide effective personal safety and martial arts training to members of the community.

This funding was used to run eight sessions in partnership with four local colleges and universities. The format of the sessions was a combination of theory and practical elements and the content focused on personal safety and violence against women and girls.



Case study:

Clara* was anxious to go out and unsure of how to defend herself, should she need to. During the course she asked lots of questions and really embraced the practical element. At the end she commented on the amount of useful advice within the course and reported that she would now be far more confident to go out. She also stated that she felt hugely empowered.

*name changed

Wednesday Club Waddesdon

Project: Running costs for Wednesday Club

Grant: £10,000



Wednesday Club is a free, weekly club which aims to improve the wellbeing of elderly residents. This is achieved through various different activities such as physical and mental exercise, a freshly cooked hot meal, and a range of entertainment offerings. The club also helps to combat loneliness through a befriending service and provides information and practical support for families of the elderly.



In addition to covering the core costs of running the club, this funding has also been used to recruit and train 14 DBS-cleared volunteers, provide crucial support to 69 older individuals with diverse needs, and has provided essential respite to families and carers.



Improving life skills, education & employability

Caribbean Community Lunch Club

Project: Knowledge is power

Grant: £15,000

The Caribbean Community Lunch Club hosted a series of health empowerment workshops which have helped members to improve their mental wellbeing in addition to offering support, information, health checks, various health and wellbeing activities, and a social space each week.

The project has also enabled members from the local community paid opportunities to share their stories and skills or deliver workshops. For some, it was their first paid opportunity in this capacity, which improved their confidence and helped build their CV.

A recent research initiative carried out by the Caribbean Community Lunch Club reported that the cost of living crisis has impacted the wellbeing of black individuals in Buckinghamshire and that many of their members had felt undervalued.



"A number of our members assumed they would share their stories or deliver workshops for free and so we were pleased to be in a position to offer payment for their services."

- Roneish Myers, Secretary

In addition to this, the funding was used to provide training opportunities for young people, including administrative skills and video recording.

Overall, 74 people have benefitted from various initiatives during this project and the club's regular member attendance has increased by 30%.

The Irene Taylor Trust

Project: 'Musician in Residence' and panto at HMP Spring Hill

Grant: £10,000

This funding contributed towards weekly music sessions involving 34 prisoners in total. The sessions covered song-writing and composition, tuition on a range of instruments, and sessions focussing on music theory and music appreciation. Participation in these sessions has provided serving prisoners with the opportunity to engage in a purposeful and creative activity and has helped build relationships and life skills.

The funding was also used to delivered a two-week intensive project involving 16 prisoners, concluding with a panto performed by participants and attended by their peers, family and friends, and prison staff.

These projects help build prisoner's confidence and aspirations for the future. Those who take part are also eligible to apply to join Sounding Out, a programme of work which supports prisoners on release, offering the opportunity to continue with musical activity and providing pastoral support for up to two years.

Case study:

Joey* was a participant in the 'Musician in Residence' sessions. It was his first time performing music to other people and making music in a group setting. Initially he felt vulnerable performing his songs and hearing feedback about his music. However, as the weeks progressed his confidence increased. He enthusiastically began to learn percussion, piano and singing, and outside of the sessions he even took it upon himself to teach others in the group how to play the guitar.

In December he performed as part of the Christmas show to an audience of 220 people, which he felt incredibly proud of. After he was released from prison in January, he began attending monthly 'Meet up and Play' workshops, which offer collaborative music-making for people who have experienced the Criminal Justice System. Joey has gone on to perform two original songs at the Deal Music and Arts Festival supported by Irene Taylor Trust facilitators.

*name changed

Brill with Ukraine

Project: English language lessons for refugee families

Grant: £3,200

Brill with Ukraine offers English language classes, companionship, and advice to Ukrainian families in Brill and surrounding areas.

"The grant has been so beneficial for the Ukrainians living in the Brill area. They are now able to communicate with the locals and attend more events and community groups. However, the biggest bonus is that they can now seek work." - Ross Tackley, Community Board Coordinator



Case study:

Svitlana is a gynaecologist from Ukraine and arrived in England with little-to-no English. She is currently receiving intense English lessons which have secured her a job as a dispenser at a local surgery and she hopes to eventually work as a gynaecologist for the NHS.

Svitlana has also been able to integrate into life in Brill, making friends with locals. At the Ukraine Independence Day, Svitlana cooked Ukrainian food for the community group and was able to have fluent chats with everyone there.



Strengthening community cohesion

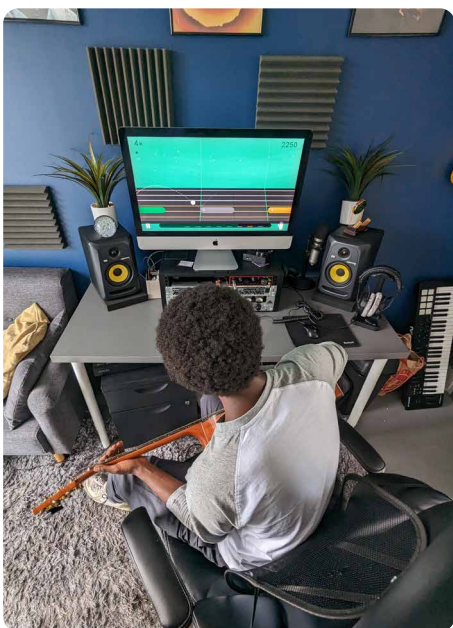
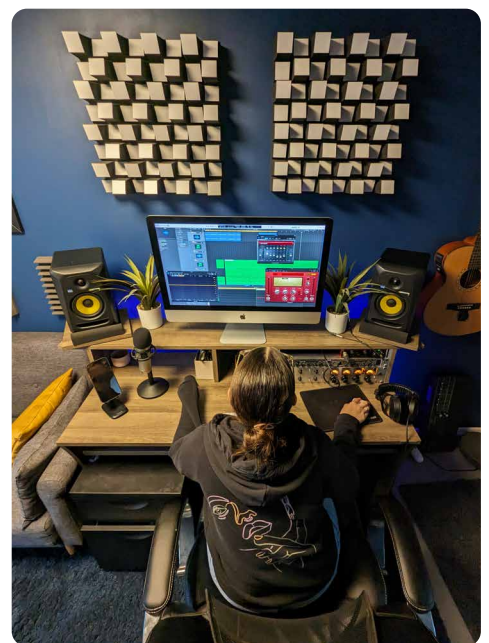
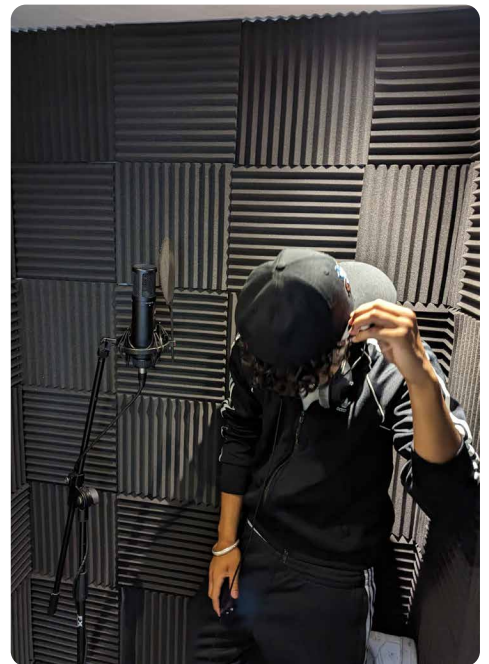
DCSV Creative

Project: 'Discover your sound' drop-in sessions

Grant: £15,000

'Discover Your Sound' focuses on providing free of charge professional drop-in studio sessions for young adults aged 12-18 from disadvantaged backgrounds. The project brings together young people from different backgrounds, enabling them to learn from each other, collaborate, and grow together through music with experienced mentors.

The drop-in sessions take place on weekdays after school. The mentors work together with the young adults to help them record their own music, work on their own productions, or simply use the space as a safe place to listen to music and discuss musical ideas.



DCSV Creative also offers support for young people including carers and young people at risk of offending. Their sessions promote improved mental wellbeing and offer a safe and productive activity to participate in after school.

Women's Cultural Arena

Project: Mindfulness in a green space

Grant: £8,172

This funding was used to continue Women's Cultural Arena's Green Space Initiative. Using the funding they were able to continue with community allotment sessions and reach out to members for new greener ideas which were then implemented, such as developing a pond, planting seasonal bulbs, and creating herb corners. They also ran the Allotment Growers Breakfast Club every Saturday at Oakridge Baptist Church which included discussion on green issues.

This grant was also used to conduct therapeutic art sessions, both indoors and outdoors, reaching new participants through sessions with residents at Hughenden Garden Village and unpaid carers via Carers Bucks.

Women's Cultural Arena also ran guest speaker sessions and held monthly tea parties at the Eden Library. Those involved in these projects offered their time voluntarily and for many this changed their role from service user to service provider.



Molly's Community Cafe CIC

Project: Warm spaces in the community

Grant: £2,000

Molly's Community Cafe provides a warm space for local residents. This funding was used to extend their opening hours during the week to provide warmth and company. The grant was also used to provide free drinks to vulnerable people, enabling them to visit the cafe without feeling pressured to purchase something.

By opening for longer hours, the cafe has helped people save money on their home heating, they particularly wanted to offer a warm space for those who rely on instant heaters and live in poorly insulated homes. The cafe also provides friendship and companionship for those living in isolation.



"Cost of living increases have meant that regular customers are finding it hard to afford food and drinks in the cafe in the way they used to. There are many single parents in Steeple Claydon and surrounding villages and our objective is to subsidise meals and drinks to ensure they are still able to frequent the Community Hub. We hope they are not embarrassed at their inability to pay or the fact they find it beneficial to reduce their home heating bills while enjoying the company of others in the warmth."

- Dennis Gotts, Director



The arts, culture & heritage

Rah Rah Community Theatre Company

Project: Creative summer activities for all

Grant: £7,577



This grant enabled Rah Rah Theatre Company to tour two of their much-loved shows to 20 community groups for the elderly in Buckinghamshire.

The shows were Country Roads - Take Me Home, featuring cowboys and cowgirls who sing and dance their way through all the country and western greatest hits and Summer Singing Sensations, a talented group performing a selection of feel-good sing-along summer songs with three-part harmonies, comedy and dancing.

The shows featured music, comedy and drama and provided a perfect way for the elderly to reconnect and bring some much needed joy back into their lives, as well as reducing loneliness, supporting physical and mental health and helping to build and strengthen social ties.

"The funding received has strengthened the links between our charity and the venues we perform at, creating future work for the charity and future creative events for venues. Many venues reported that they do not have the financial capacity to run lots of creative events, but make a point of booking Rah Rah and often fundraise to enable them to do so: our events are key to engaging members and encouraging new members to join their centres." - Jude Spooner, Managing Director

"Wonderful show! Our residents had a wonderful afternoon being entertained and it was great seeing them get involved in the show as well. Thank you and we hope to see you again soon."

- Chiltern Grange Care Home



Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust

Project: Delivering Holi - Spring Festival of Colours

Grant: £2,000

In April Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust celebrated 'Holi – Spring Festival of Colours' together with the wider community in Aylesbury. The festival was a jubilant occasion that saw people who attended covering each other in rainbow-hued powder to commemorate the beginning of spring.



The event played a crucial role bringing communities together and helped to foster mutual understanding, respect, and appreciation among different communities. It also provided opportunities to the people who attended the event to learn about different cultures, customs, and beliefs, promoting harmony and unity within society.

"We have applied for the first time and are thrilled to receive this vital grant to deliver this event free to the wider community. Without the grant it would not be possible to sustain delivering this event."

The Vache Baroque Festival

Project: History of Sound

Grant: £5,530

With this funding Vache Baroque rehearsed and delivered 12 workshop-show sessions of 'A History of Sound' at two partner schools in Bucks. This is a music education project which aims to increase access to classical music through the removal of perceived and real barriers, showcasing singing and playing instruments as something everyone can do and derive joy and pride from. The workshop is interactive and aimed at children aged 6 - 11.



The interactive show centres around "Agents of Sound" who are tasked with exploring sounds on planet Earth from 4.5 billion years ago up to the time of J. S. Bach, singing, playing and demonstrating as they go.

The workshop session challenges those taking part to complete a series of tasks such as trying out a violin, drums and other percussion instruments, plus rhythm and coordination games, and drawing sound waves.



The environment & public spaces

Long Crendon School PTA

Project: Outdoor classroom

Grant: £6,000



This funding has helped pay for the construction of Long Crendon School's outdoor classroom. This has facilitated forest school sessions, outdoor class reading, outdoor music lessons and eco-club sessions, including apple pressing. The outdoor classroom has also been used for end of term treats such as toasting s'mores and after-school 'Wild Club' sessions. Outside of school hours it has also hosted a PTA meeting and been used by the local football club to provide shelter during matches.

The outdoor classroom has made a huge difference to the school's outdoor learning and forest school sessions. Children can now go out in all weather and younger children can also enjoy forest school sessions without being exposed to cold and wet weather. The school can also light a fire in all weather conditions and offer a much more varied range of arts and crafts activities, making use of the surrounding nature.

"Soon after the shelter was installed high winds were forecast. Normally a forest school session would be cancelled in these conditions but having the shelter meant the session could still go ahead. If the outdoor classroom hadn't been there, the children would have been inside all day as both break and lunch time were held inside that day, due to the poor weather conditions. Thanks to the outdoor classroom, all children doing forest school that day benefited from being able to get outside, learn and be creative!"

Earthwatch Europe

Project: 10 tiny forests in Buckinghamshire

Grant: £10,000

Earthwatch Europe are working in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council to plant 'Tiny Forests' in some of Buckinghamshire's most deprived wards. These wards have been identified through the council's Opportunity Bucks programme which aims to provide opportunities for people and improve local areas.



Tiny Forests are small, tennis-court sized woodlands that benefit urban areas by connecting people with nature, helping mitigate the impacts of climate change and providing spaces to support wildlife.

This grant has specifically contributed towards training local volunteers and providing ongoing support for the communities. Since the project began, they have engaged more than 800 Bucks residents, including school children and community groups, at Tiny Forest Planting Days and Discovery Days. They also have a group of over 30 fantastic volunteer 'Tree Keepers' who care for the Tiny Forests on a regular basis.

Charndon Parish Council

Project: Eco garden lawn mower

Grant: £10,000

This grant contributed towards the purchase of a new eco-friendly and road-safe lawnmower and equipment to maintain the two new eco areas installed in the village to mitigate the impact of HS2.

"As a local resident, I enjoy going on walks around the village, but the destruction by HS2 and East-West Rail has seen many walks ruined and some even taken away. When the parish council started maintaining the green at the hall, I started walking loops of it, enjoying the views of the eco garden and boating lake. I never really appreciated this area before, now it is the first place I go for a walk or a run. I enjoy taking in the surroundings and I am grateful this area is available for me to enjoy."



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 impact theme or issue specific, as well as crisis funds which support individuals in real need. We welcome donations to these funds to help expand their reach across the county.

From time to time we also offer match-funding opportunities, which will help to make your donation go further. Please get in touch to find out about our current match-funding offers.



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.

"Heart of Bucks is right at the top of my list of charities to work with for their grants experience, the frequency and depth of their feedback on impact, and being so open and available."

- Major donor



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.

Supporting opportunity and enabling success

We advise individuals, families and businesses across a variety of sectors.

We provide a full range of accounting, audit, tax and business advisory services to help clients achieve their personal and business objectives.

For more information, contact:

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Proud to support Heart of Bucks

Our values

we listen respectfully

we fund inclusively

we advise professionally

we support locally

we lead collaboratively



Connecting people who care with local causes that matter

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

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Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales

Company No. 03662246