



Annual Report

2024/2025



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

Registered charity no. 1073861 | Company no. 03662246



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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 £18.5 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 proud to reflect on our work during the 2024–25 financial year alongside you, our supporters, volunteers, donors, staff, partners, and the many local organisations we serve.

This has been a record-breaking year, with our largest-ever grants distribution of over £2.5m, reaching communities across Buckinghamshire. In total, 582 grants were awarded, including crisis support and bursaries that directly helped more than 640 individuals. These achievements are only possible thanks to the generosity of our fundholders, donors, and business partners, and the tireless efforts of our growing staff team and volunteers.

We are especially grateful to the many local charities and community groups we fund, whose vital work on the ground brings lasting impact to people's lives. Working together with public bodies, businesses, and community partners, we continue to strengthen a culture of giving and support across the county.

One particular highlight has been the continued growth and development of our 'Young Futures Fund' grants programme, distributing many bursaries to local young people, and grants to youth-focused organisations. We have been impressed with the incredible contribution of the young volunteers on our Youth Board and look forward to growing this project in the coming years.

This year also marks a special milestone for Heart of Bucks as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. Over the past quarter-century, we have proudly supported thousands of grassroots groups and countless local people. As we look ahead, we are excited to build on this legacy, by continuing to work with you all to make Buckinghamshire the very best place it can be for everyone who calls it home.

Moir Stewart, Chair of Trustees and Henry Allmand, CEO

Achievements



End of year figures

For year end 31st March 2025

£4.3 million

Income this year

£13.2 million

Long-term investments

£2.5 million

Awarded in grants

£258,812

Awarded in grants to individuals and families

£7,126

Average grant awarded to community groups

£977

Average grant awarded to individuals and families

642

Number of individuals supported

582

Total number of grants awarded

323

Projects supported

Grants awarded to groups by impact category

Environment
5%

Reducing isolation and disadvantage
28%

Physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety
46%

Strengthening community cohesion
10%

Life skills, education and employment
11%

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:



Key achievements and highlights this year

Our network of Community Investors grew and we received our **biggest ever donation of £19,000 into the Community Investor Fund** from Hedsor House.

We were pleased to be selected as one of **Mimi Harker OBE's chosen charities** during her year as Council Chair. Mimi raised an amazing £8,256 for Heart of Bucks.

We **launched the Bucks Trustee Network** for trustees from local trusts and foundations. This free network connects and informs through events, webinars and newsletters.

We established a **new bursary fund with the Kop Hill charity** to support the local community.

Vision 2050
We **held a strategy review meeting**, bringing together staff, trustees, and volunteers to explore the work that will shape our journey to 2050.

Thanks to the Mulberry Trust and other generous supporters, the **Chequers match-funding challenge raised over £2.6m.**

We continued to promote the **Young Futures Fund**, including speaking about the project at the UKCF conference.

We published **five topical reports and hosted three community forums** as part of our Buckinghamshire: Uncovered project.

We continued to **raise awareness and fundraise for Together Against Poverty**, and were pleased to be the chosen charity campaign for the Wycombe Swan pantomime.

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 2024/25 we welcomed 27 new Community Investors.



If your organisation would like to make a real difference, we'd love to welcome you into our network of [Community Investors](#).

Get in touch:
giving@heartofbucks.org

Feedback

"Thank you so much, the support that we have received from Heart of Bucks has been amazing."

– Lewis, Wellness Warriors

"Thank you for escorting us round the three charities... how good it was to see that our funding was being put to such good use. The experience for us was certainly memorable and most rewarding."

– Fundholder, following a Seeing is Believing tour

"Amazing support and amazing organisation. Thank you for all you do and the support you give to The Getaway Foundation."

– Peter Tebbutt, CEO

"The support from the Heart of Bucks team and SWEF has been outstanding; they are not only knowledgeable but genuinely helpful, guiding me every step of the way."

– Cicely, bursary recipient

Celebrating 25 years

1999



The Buckinghamshire Foundation was founded by Sir Nigel Mobbs, local businessman and Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (1997-2005).



2000



An initial grant of £500 was awarded, followed by a total of £13,000 distributed among 25 organisations in the first year.

2007

The total awarded reaches £1m.



The first national endowment matching scheme was launched.

2012

2009

We became the Buckinghamshire Community Foundation.



2013

We rebranded to Heart of Bucks.



2023

The Young Futures Fund was launched, and we rebranded our crisis fund to Together Against Poverty.



2024

We surpassed £2m in total funding awarded to individuals and families in crisis.

2025

Our annual grants total reached £2.5m for the first time, bringing our all-time figure to £18.5m in funding. We've awarded over 6,000 grants, supporting 75% of registered charities in Buckinghamshire.

Join us for the next 25 years...



First grants awarded to individuals in crisis.

2015



We launched one of the first local coronavirus appeals in the UK.

2020



Celebrating 25 years

To mark this milestone, our team and trustees have been visiting some of the incredible groups and projects we have supported over the past 25 years. Alongside our generous donors and Community Investors, it's been inspiring to witness the impact these grants, and the organisations behind them, are making across Buckinghamshire.

[View the interactive mosaic on our website](#) for more photos from across the county.



Aylesbury Youth Motor Project



Caribbean Community Lunch Club



Haddenham Youth Theatre



Vana Trust

Princes Risborough



Rural Community Defibrillator Group



The Princes Centre

Buckingham



Men in Sheds



Buckingham School

Stoke Mandeville



Wheelpower



Handcycling Assoc.

Chesham and Amersham



Bois Moor Road play area



Movers and Shakers

Beaconsfield and Marlow



Dove Cafe



Longridge

High Wycombe



One Can Trust



Wycombe Wanderers Foundation

Together Against Poverty

Since 2015, Heart of Bucks has provided funding to individuals and families struggling with the cost of daily life. There continues to be a strong need for this kind of support and in 2024/25 we distributed nearly £200,000 to those in poverty in our community.

Together Against Poverty provides essential one-off grants to help households experiencing severe hardship and distress, including food, shelter, fuel or digital poverty.

The largest proportion of our crisis funding went to:



Housing costs
(46%)



Energy and water
(18%)



Food and household items
(9%)

Nearly
£200,000
awarded to
those in
poverty

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.

“These grants make such a difference to people who have very little, and are living in crisis. I love when I can tell someone that their grant has been successful. It gives people hope that their situation can change.” - **Kim Starkey, Community Advocate**



Young Futures Fund

Young Futures is a partnership of local organisations and people, dedicated to funding the aspirations and dreams of young individuals across Buckinghamshire. The collaborative approach of Young Futures means that the young people who make up the Board are actively involved in the decision-making process of distributing funds.

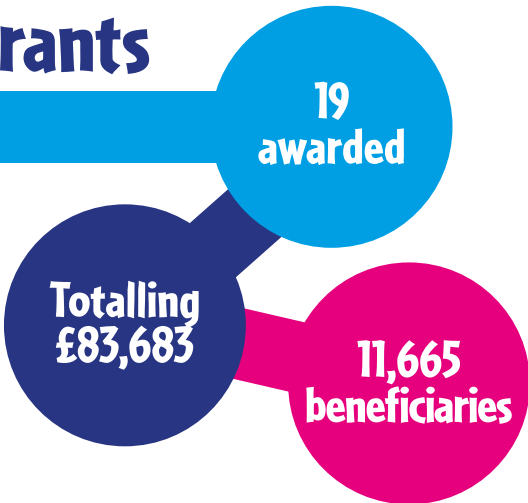


“It has been a fantastic experience for me so far as, unlike the other youth panels I have chaired and grant-giving panels I’ve been part of, we have the final say in where these sums of money are directed and as such we all feel responsible for improving the lives of those around us.”

- Tom, Chair

The Young Futures Fund produced its first Annual Report at the start of 2025, following a successful year awarding over £100k in funding, through grants to organisations and bursaries directly to young people.

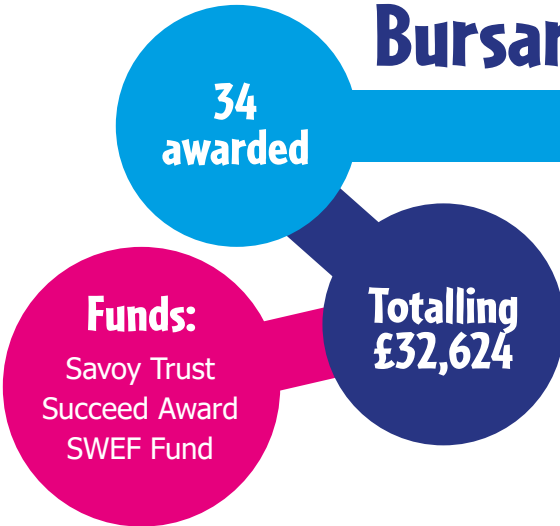
Grants



Examples of grants awarded:

- Connection Support - Trauma informed counselling
- Aylesbury Youth Action - Youth Action Leaders project
- Youth Concern - 'Grow it, cook it, eat it' project

Bursaries



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.



A user-friendly platform that holds data from over 1,000 neighbourhood level indicators taken from over 50 different sources. Updated regularly with the latest releases, it provides current data which is both clean and reliable.

Now available on the Bucks Data Exchange

Buckinghamshire data: Did you know?



Residents are on average 440m away from their nearest park, public garden or playing field. This is greater than the average for all local authorities, the South East, and England.

49% of waste is sent for reuse, recycling or composting (2022 figures), this ranks Buckinghamshire Council 80 out of 333 authorities.



The average house price (2022) is £549,072. This is higher than the average for the South East.

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



BUCKS
DATA
EXCHANGE

bucksdataexchange.org

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 Vaping Generation



The Young Futures Board raised vaping as a key concern that's not being adequately addressed. We explore the issue on their behalf, sharing insights from young people and local charities.

Loneliness and isolation



The UK is facing a loneliness epidemic, and Buckinghamshire is no exception. This report explores its impact across life stages, using data, personal stories, and local insights.

Creative Health



Despite Buckinghamshire's affluent, cultural image, disparities exist in access to the arts. This report explores the challenges, opportunities, and role of the arts in health and wellbeing.

Youth, skills and employment



Despite a strong economy, many young people in Buckinghamshire face skills challenges. This report explores key obstacles to the future workforce.

Homelessness



Everyone deserves a safe, warm home, yet many lack access to affordable housing. This report highlights the hidden homelessness crisis in Buckinghamshire.

Air quality and the environment



Air quality affects both our environment and personal health. We examine its impact in Buckinghamshire, current improvement efforts, and what more can be done.

[Read the reports in full online](#)



Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety

Little Chalfont Area Dementia Support

Project: Broadening Horizons

Grant: £1,250



Little Chalfont Area Dementia Support run Café 23 in Amersham Town Football Club, offering a space for people with dementia and their carers to meet, access relevant services, and relieve isolation. Funding enabled the group to broaden their programme and introduce exciting and engaging new activities that brought smiles, laughter, and renewed energy to their guests.

Among the highlights were a delightful visit from two miniature pigs, a fascinating session from Search Dogs Buckinghamshire and a rare opportunity for guests to engage closely with a variety of reptiles, amphibians, and even a tarantula provided by local organisation Jungle Juniors.

By expanding their programmes and activities, Little Chalfont Area Dementia Support not only helped to stimulate the minds of their café guests with dementia, but also gave their carers and partners the chance to relax and share much needed joy and comfort.

"Since my husband's diagnosis of dementia, the nature of the disease means that not only his horizons, but also mine, have diminished, but thanks to Café 23 we now have a new circle of friends. The range of activities is amazing, with different weeks offering crafts, music, speakers, quizzes, exercise and seasonal celebrations, all accompanied by a yummy selection of home made cakes; it has now become a highlight of each week."



Aylesbury Vale Dynamos FC

Project: Flood Repairs

Grant: £9,143

Following long periods of heavy rain and flooding, Aylesbury Vale Dynamos FC found their pitches damaged and unusable. With no matches able to take place, revenue was lost.



With funding, a professional company was engaged with to treat all the damaged pitches (pictured left). They removed dead grass and reseeded all areas, resulting in a successful recovery. Thanks to this, the team were able to play in their home community once again.

Youth Concern

Project: Butterflies

Grant: £10,925

This grant enabled Youth Concern to continue to run 'Butterflies', a gender identity support group and counselling service for young people aged 11-25, at their drop-in centre. The sessions are facilitated by a youth worker and supported by two young people with lived experience.

Sessions are led by the young people who decide what activities they would like to do. This includes movie nights, cooking sessions, gardening, board game nights, celebrating 'world days' such as world chocolate day, marking festivals such as St Patrick's Day and Halloween, and picnics in the garden.

Butterflies provides a safe space for young people to feel heard, explore their identities, and express themselves without being judged. The sessions help to relieve anxiety and promote positive mental health and resilience. The counselling service further enhances this by offering these young people professional counselling support when they need it. Over 270 hours of counselling was delivered during the funded period, supporting eight individuals from the sessions to develop the emotional resilience needed to move forward in a confident and positive way.



"It's my safe space where I don't have to explain my identity, I'm accepted for me."



Reducing isolation & disadvantage

Wycombe Refugee Partnership

Project: Hardship and Access Fund for asylum seekers and refugees

Grant: £8,000

This funding went towards the Hardship and Access Fund which helps refugees and asylum seekers facing significant financial hardship alongside providing an activity stream for improving mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation.



The funding played a vital role in helping young asylum seekers and refugee children feel part of their new community. Through local sports clubs, weekly skateboarding sessions, football groups, and creative workshops, young people had regular opportunities to connect, build friendships, and express themselves. These activities offered a sense of belonging and routine, which is especially important during periods of transition and uncertainty.

Funding also supported families with essential needs such as food, transport, and temporary housing.

This helped children attend school, and families participate in local events, connecting them with their new community. Transport support, including bus passes, also gave people the independence to gain work and training opportunities.

Short-term accommodation was also provided to those in crisis at Mellor House; a half-way house for refugee families whilst they establish themselves in the UK. Once guests secured employment, they were helped to move on to private rentals, offering practical support to cover initial costs and settle into their new lives.

Case study:

A 22 year old woman was at risk of homelessness after receiving refugee status. A Wycombe Refugee Partnership volunteer had a check-in call and discovered she also had a broken foot. The group organised an interim stay with a host before arranging for her to stay in Mellor House, whilst providing support for her to find a job. The safety of Mellor House meant she could focus on her English course and build up her CV. Once she secured work, she was able to move into rented accommodation and be fully independent.

Wendover Youth Centre

Project: Increased utility costs

Grant: £4,884

This grant helped to keep the busy Wendover Youth Centre running, covering increased utility bill costs, enabling the group to use their income on activities instead.

The Youth Centre supports young people aged nine to 18, and runs a variety of different activities, such as clubs, mental health courses, workshops, and mentoring. An annual youth festival is also held to help raise awareness of these activities and encourage young people to attend. Additionally, subsidised day trips mean young people have the opportunity to attend activities, such as bowling, which they may otherwise not be able to afford.



Tabitha Foodbank

Project: Foodbank

Grant: £6,000

The Tabitha Foodbank was established in 2021 and provides food parcels to those in need in the local community. With this funding, they extended their reach by delivering food to those unable to visit the foodbank in person. The funding supported food purchases and distribution for clients referred by Helping Hand, Trussell Trust, Independents, Aylesbury Homeless Action Group, Women's Aid, and other services. Beyond food support, beneficiaries were signposted to other agencies for further assistance, including help with employment opportunities. Additionally, funding enabled the provision of essential winter items such as sleeping bags, gloves, hats, and basic utensils for those experiencing homelessness.

Case study:

Barbara, a Hungarian woman living in emergency council accommodation, began visiting the foodbank independently on a Saturday. Due to a language barrier, her situation was initially unclear. Through patient support she was encouraged to contact the local council. With limited family nearby, the foodbank became a key part of her routine. On her 60th birthday, they celebrated with gifts, which she deeply appreciated.



Improving life skills, education & employability

Vana Trust

Project: Lunch Club Kitchen Co-ordinator

Grant: £2,250

Vana Trust supports individuals living with additional needs or mental health difficulties from their organic farm in Ludgershall. This funding contributed towards a Kitchen Co-ordinator role, enabling Vana Trust to run a Lunch Club that teaches essential skills such as cooking and healthy eating, using a 'farm-to-fork' approach.

The process involved growing food before turning it into a nutritious meal. For many, this was their first experience of working in a kitchen or preparing food. Learning these new skills was empowering and sparked creativity and curiosity to explore new foods and flavours.



The Lunch Club became more than just a place to eat, but a chance to gain self-confidence, make new friends, and learn important life skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Case study:

Liam, a trainee, wrote that before coming to the farm, he was so scared to talk to anyone and always avoided eye contact. Thanks to the Lunch Club, along with his knowledge of cookery, his interpersonal skills have developed significantly, and he is very happy interacting with others.

Mama Bee Group

Project: My Place

Grant: £5,800

The 'My Place' project supported care-experienced young people in Buckinghamshire as they transitioned into independent living. Funding enabled the delivery of over 25 hours of tailored support, helping participants understand tenancy responsibilities, manage challenges, and build emotional resilience. This project gave care leavers practical tools and trusted guidance at a crucial life stage, ensuring they weren't just housed, but truly supported in starting out on their own.

Case study:

Tim* was put on the Buckinghamshire home choice list in October just before he turned 18. He began attending My Place sessions in November to support his transition, and was initially offered a flat. Unfortunately after viewing and accepting, Tim didn't pass the affordability element with that housing association. This was a bit of a knock back for him. The My Place sessions provided him with the space to discuss how he was feeling, to be assertive and find solutions instead of remaining passive in this process. A few weeks later, a new flat was found and he was supported to move in successfully, with help to find white goods and have them professionally installed. My Place sessions gave Tim the help and confidence he needed to live independently.

*Name changed

Foodrise

Project: GROWTH

Grant: £4,968



This grant covered staff, admin and resource costs involved in facilitating the GROWTH project. Aimed at young people with less prior work experience or those with additional needs, the project helped to gain knowledge, skills, and qualifications in food hygiene, nutrition, customer service and horticulture.

Sessions were designed to be accessible and inclusive, embedding key life and employability skills without the negative associations of traditional education settings. The project incorporated diverse teaching methods including drama, discussion, creative challenges, mentoring, and real-world simulations.

"It's good for us to know how food is connected to the environment."



The project created space for confidence to grow. Learners who had previously struggled in school thrived in a setting where they could move, make, ask questions, and feel seen. Feedback was consistently positive, with some learners expressing new-found enthusiasm for education and work readiness.



Strengthening community cohesion

Aylesbury Youth Action

Project: Generate2

Grant: £7,009

The Generate2 project brought together care home residents and young volunteers through shared gardening and creative activities to reduce isolation, build connections, and enhance community wellbeing. The grant had a significant and lasting impact on both the residents of the care home and the young volunteers taking part in the project.

The young volunteers gained valuable experience in community involvement, intergenerational relationships, and practical gardening skills, developing confidence, empathy, and a strong sense of local contribution. The project was also an opportunity for personal growth for many of the young volunteers, as they built meaningful bonds with the residents and learned the value of collaboration and care. For many of the residents, who often faced isolation or had limited mobility, it provided much needed opportunities for social interaction and time outdoors.



Thanks to this project the community garden has become a space for shared activity and renewed purpose, with painting, planting, and growing vegetables sparking conversation, joy, and connection. It has also brought wider benefits to the local community by transforming the garden into a more vibrant and welcoming space.

Case study:

A 21-year-old volunteer was a consistent and compassionate presence throughout the project, forming a strong friendship with a care home resident. What began as casual conversation during gardening sessions grew into a meaningful bond, with the pair regularly checking in on each other and sharing time together in the garden. This connection brought the resident renewed purpose and reduced loneliness, while the volunteer gained confidence, empathy, and a deeper sense of community. Their friendship is a powerful example of how intergenerational volunteering can create lasting, positive change for everyone involved.

In This Together Bucks CIC

Project: Outreach

Grant: £7,200

With funding In This Together Bucks carried out a series of targeted activities to engage and support young people, particularly those at risk of involvement in serious violence, crime, or who were unemployed. These sessions focused on enhancing skills, boosting confidence, and improving chances of securing employment, while simultaneously preventing involvement in criminal activities. The work was specifically targeted in the Aylesbury South area.

The core of this outreach work involved CV building and interview skills seminars, designed to enhance employability and give young people the tools to confidently pursue job opportunities. Aspects such as body language, first impressions, and how to handle tough interview scenarios were also covered.

For higher-risk individuals, such as those with histories of antisocial behaviour, gang involvement, or violence, tailored 1:1 mentoring was provided. These sessions were more in-depth and tailored to the individual's needs, including helping them with additional challenges, such as mental health problems or lack of work experience.

By equipping young people with the skills needed for employment, In This Together Bucks empowered them to make positive choices and avoid the pressures of gang culture, reducing youth involvement in violence and crime.

14th Vale Of Aylesbury Sea Scouts

Project: Scout headquarters rebuild

Grant: £10,000

Housed in a wartime structure since the group's formation in 1970, the building had become financially unsustainable and no longer met modern building regulations. This restricted the use of the building and placed the future of the group at risk.

This grant contributed directly to the core structural elements of building a new scout hut. The new building is not only larger and more environmentally efficient, but also far more accessible and inclusive, providing opportunities for disadvantaged young people to fully engage in the activities. It is a safe, welcoming environment where young people can build relationships, develop skills, and grow in confidence before taking those experiences out into the wider community.





The arts, culture & heritage

Chiltern Society

Project: Renovations to Lacey Green windmill

Grant: £3,639



Lacey Green windmill, the oldest surviving smock mill in England, has stood on the Chiltern Escarpment for centuries, with some of its intricate timber machinery dating back to the 1600s. A symbol of rural heritage, it holds deep emotional value for the local community and generations of visitors exploring the iconic Chiltern footpaths.

This funding has contributed to the first major renovations to the windmill since the 1970s and has helped rescue it from a sad decline. Expert assessments revealed rot in the timbers that turned the sails, and structural weaknesses that made the mill unsafe. Without intervention, this local landmark risked falling into permanent disrepair.



"The sun is shining and I keep looking out of my kitchen window at our beautiful windmill, it makes me smile."

The funded work has been transformative. New cap rollers and winding gear were cast, new stocks installed, sails and external features repainted, and weatherboards replaced. These vital repairs not only restored the windmill's function and beauty but also safeguarded its place in the Chilterns' landscape as a beloved sight for the community. The windmill continues to welcome visitors, school groups, and historians. Crucially, it remains a space of purpose for the volunteers, some of whom have devoted decades to its care. With the mill now safe and restored, they can continue to share its story and reap the benefits that volunteering in such a unique building brings.



Alina Orchestra Limited

Project: Band in a Van & Care Home Outreach

Grant: £9,270

Funding supported Alina Orchestra to deliver outreach work to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in Buckinghamshire. This work consisted of Band in a Van interactive events held in family and children's centres, and workshops delivered in care homes. These events and workshops opened the world of music to everyone, regardless of ability, background, or circumstance, and created powerful moments of connection and joy for people who needed it most.



"It was heartwarming to see our learners enjoying live music, joining in with instruments and learning about the different instruments in such a warm, friendly and inclusive space."



In care homes, the simple act of making music together, such as singing a familiar song or hearing a tune from their youth lifted spirits and brought back memories.

Inclusive Band in a Van events opened the world of music for many, allowing them to engage in creative expression and gain a new sense of what they can achieve.

These are not just fun activities, they are experiences that spark hope, release emotion in a healthy way, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

"Thank you very much for a brilliant and memorable time."

Wycombe Swan Theatre – Trafalgar Entertainment Trust

Project: Mentorship, rap, & music production programme for 12-18 year-olds

Grant: £4,969

This grant was used towards venue hire, staff, and marketing costs to deliver 10 rap and music production workshops to young people in High Wycombe.

Led by experienced mentors, the young people learned the intricacies of the music industry, from creating your own beats to how to start your own independent record label. The workshops also explored real-life struggles such as victimisation and discrimination, providing powerful tools for personal growth, enabling them to navigate life's challenges with greater confidence. Through rap and music, they channelled their emotions into something tangible and deeply personal, reclaiming ownership of their stories. This creative expression not only lifted their spirits but also improved their self-esteem.

Case study:

A is a 15 year old from the Abbey ward, one of the most deprived wards in Wycombe. Attending the programme was the first time they had set foot in any theatre. They had previously taken part in workshops at local youth centres, but had poor attendance. They were hesitant at first, and said they were nervous about coming as they hadn't been to the theatre before. The team made them feel relaxed by engaging them in small talk and asking them more about their interests in music and what they'd like to find out about the music industry. A went on to attend 100% of sessions and even arrived early, keen to start working and recording as soon as possible.



The environment & public spaces

Longridge on the Thames

Project: Improving the natural environment decimated by flooding

Grant: £5,000

Dating back to 1927, Longridge is a vital community hub where schools, youth groups and families come together and connect in a stunning riverside setting. With a wide range of outdoor activities, it is a place where lifelong memories are made.

After severe flooding damaged a previously unused area of the site, funding contributed to the installation of a raised walkway to protect the Loddon Lily that grows there and create new 'zones' for new activities to take place. They also removed the toxic buildings that were on the site, replacing them with canvas and eco-lodges, and are gradually replacing all power with solar. By improving and protecting this area, Longridge has been able to expand their drop-in family friendly activities with archery and swimming.



In improving and protecting their environment, Longridge has taken bold steps toward sustainability, future proofing site accessibility, and becoming an entirely eco-friendly site.



Chiltern Rangers

Project: Tools & Equipment

Grant: £2,500

With this grant, Chiltern Rangers were able to purchase essential tools, equipment, and clothing to support their school holiday programme for young people. This helped to remove key barriers to participation by ensuring every young person had access to safe and appropriate gear.

*"Today was amazing!
I want to come next time!"*



*"It's clear the respect for diversity you
all have and it's much appreciated."*



With new pull saws, loppers, and gloves, participants were equipped to take part in hands-on woodland conservation activities, such as coppicing, gaining practical experience while learning about sustainable woodland management and the importance of local biodiversity. Their efforts culminated in a celebratory campfire cookout, where the young people came together to prepare and share a meal, enjoying the fruits of their labour, marking a meaningful and memorable conclusion to the programme.

Holmer Green Sports Association

Project: 3G Artificial Grass Pitch

Grant: £10,000



Funding was used to replace an existing grass pitch with a new all-weather artificial grass pitch (also known as a 3G pitch). Equipped with high-quality artificial turf, floodlights, secure fencing, and maintained to the highest standard, the pitch is now a place where over 2,600 people each week play, train, and connect. People now feel safer playing in the evenings thanks to the floodlights and secure fencing, and the consistent surface has allowed for better skill development. It has significantly increased participation among women and girls, breaking down long-standing stigmas and offering a welcoming environment that empowers everyone to get involved. The sports association has now partnered with two local charities, ensuring dedicated access for groups who might otherwise be excluded.

Support us

Support for today

By committing to regular giving, you can provide consistent support to address pressing needs within your own community, helping to create positive change locally.

Our current areas of focus are:

- Impact funds
- Young Futures Fund
- Together Against Poverty
- Love Bucks

Create lasting impact

Establishing an endowment fund is a meaningful and tax-efficient way to ensure your charitable vision continues for generations.

- » Endowment: Funds will be invested securely, with the annual income being distributed in grants.
- » Hybrid: A combination of endowment and immediate impact, enabling you to grow a fund over time but also make an impact right away.

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.

Give beyond your lifetime

Legacy giving lets you create a lasting impact for generations. Whether through a bequest, charitable trust, named fund, or other planned tax-efficient giving strategy, your legacy will provide long-term support that aligns with your philanthropic goals.

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.

Our specialists provide a full range of accounting, audit, tax and business advisory services to help clients navigate their complex affairs and achieve their personal and business objectives.

For more information, contact:

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Proud to support Heart of Bucks

Since 1855

Our values

we listen respectfully

we fund inclusively

we advise professionally

we support locally

we lead collaboratively

CELEBRATING
25 years



Connecting people who care with local causes that matter

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

Registered Charity No. 1073861

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales

Company No. 03662246