

# Making a Difference Community Grants

SUMMARY REPORT

2021 / 2022



Stanton under Bardon Tea Party  
Without Walls



Jubilee Celebrations - 1st Hinckley St Marys Guides



rcc



Ukrainian Families Host Event  
Art to Heart

# Making a Difference

This report presents the findings from the Community Volunteering Fund and Making a Difference grant programme between November 2021 to March 2022. It highlights how small grants have big impacts on local Volunteer and Community Sector (VCS) groups across Hinckley and Bosworth through support from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and RCC

## COMMUNITY GROUPS SIGNED ONTO VCS DATABASE

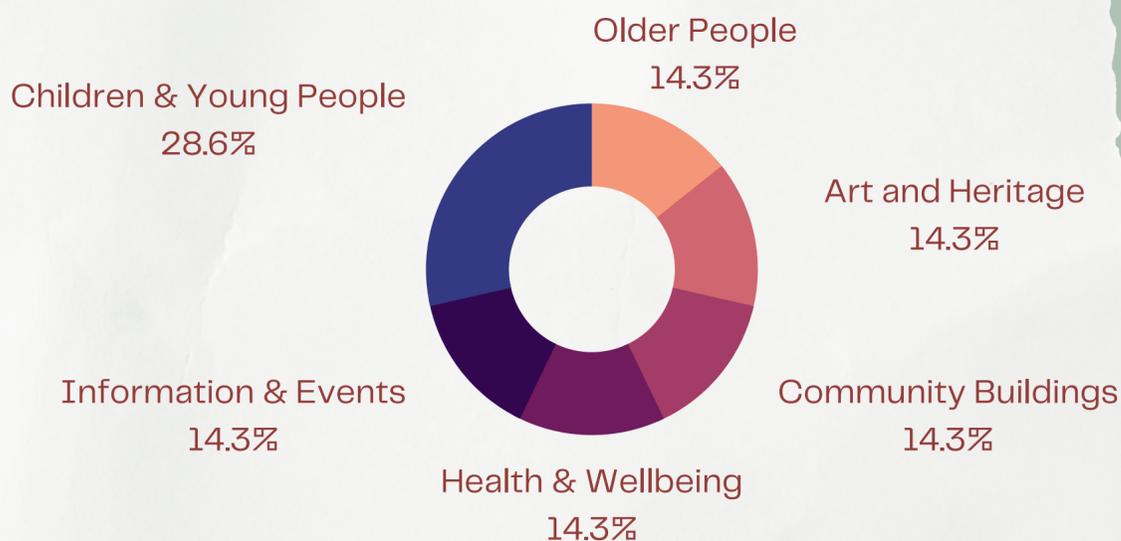
Number of community groups based in Hinckley and Bosworth who have signed up as members to the online VCS network between September 2021 and March 2022

# 194



## Number of beneficiaries

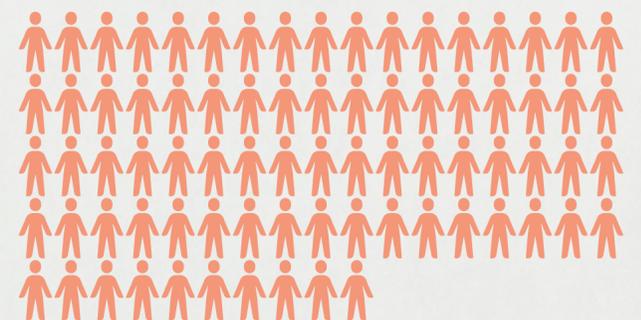
Number of residents who benefited from the activities of VCS groups funded by Making a Difference and Community Volunteering Fund



## Types of VCS activity supported by funding from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS 78

Number of residents engaged as volunteers with VCS groups funded by Making a Difference



## NUMBER OF PROJECTS

Number of projects, events or activities funded by Making a Difference or the Community Volunteering Fund during November 2021 - March 2022

# 14

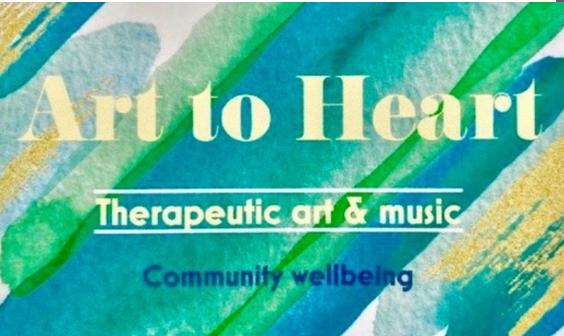
## TOTAL AMOUNT FUNDED

Total amount of monies released as grants to community groups in Hinckley & Bosworth during November 2021 and June 2022

# £25,387

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>Bagworth, Thornton &amp; Stanton Covid Response Team</b></p> <p>With the impact of Covid-19 lockdowns alongside the lack of local activities for children and young people in the Bagworth area, funding was granted to set up a youth club in Bagworth village. Many children were complaining that they had nothing to do, with a noticeable increase in anti-social behaviour and maliciousness damage in the village. Activities offered by the weekly club included multi-sports, group games and activities, creative projects such as jewellery making, arts and crafts and guest speakers.</p>	£3000	The weekly youth club welcomed around 30 regular children each week with some events attracting over 80 children. Attendees were mainly from Bagworth village but some were from neighbouring villages such as Thornton and Barlestone. Specialist youth providers were commissioned to deliver the sessions that were tailored to meet the needs of local users. They also delivered educational messages with a focus on improving mental health of children following Covid. The Club offered diversionary activities to reduce anti-social behaviour across the village as promote confidence and self-worth.	66	250	3
<p><b>Hinckley University of the Third Age</b></p> <p>Hinckley U3A is an organisation that provides educational and social opportunities for older people across Hinckley and Bosworth area. The group has 47 interest groups, ranging from art and languages to walking and local history. Funding was sought to design and build a market stall for the group to use to promote to potential members.</p>	£642.94	Loneliness and isolation is a common problem for older people, especially following Covid restrictions and the market stall has allowed us to promote activities to those who would greatly benefit. The project has been very successful, with obvious spikes in membership after attending a large event. New member recruitment targets of 10 every month are now regularly met and membership has now returned to pre-Covid levels. A small group of members took part in designing and building the stall and a pool of volunteers take part in manning it at local events.	50	300	21

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>Markfield Community Association</b> The Association provides a range of activities at Markfield Community Centre for the local community and surrounding rural areas. All activities are inclusive to all and aimed at all age groups, backgrounds and abilities, including the most vulnerable. The group applied for funding to provide a weekly Arts and Crafts Club to compliment the Mayflower group and the friends group. The nearest arts and craft club is located in Hinckley, with many members not being able to afford the cost to travel there.</p>	£2931.85	The project has helped our isolated residents to join a friendship group and make new friends, as well as and enjoy learning new art skills. This has included many new residents due to our successful partnership with the Local Area Coordinator. The project has also given the group an avenue to provide wider outcomes. The tutors enabled us to provide high quality arts and crafts sessions for many members of the local community with an average of 5 people attending per session.	85	62	2
<p><b>The Baxter Hall Charity</b> The Baxter Hall Charity was established in March 2021 to maintain and run the Baxter Hall as a community space for the residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington for a variety of activities. After the boiler was condemned, a grant was applied for to purchase a new heating system as groups needed to rely on fan heaters which were very expensive to run. A grant was applied for to install a more energy efficient combi-boiler and associated pipework in an attempt to reduce costs.</p>	£2634	The Baxter Hall is now a warm and comfortable space, with increased bookings from local groups as it is warmer and safer to use. These include the playgroup (around 30 children) who regularly use the hall as well as local art therapy groups, a pilates group, a local community choir and the local Woman's Institute. Weekly sessions for the Hinckley area Ukrainian group are also now being held regularly at the Hall, allowing sponsors and guests to come together. Energy usage to heat the hall has fell dramatically due to the new boiler being more energy efficient, resulting in lower energy bills for the group.	660	90	4



# Art to Heart

Adults Arts and Music Therapeutic Project  
Borough Wide  
Grant Awarded: £3000  
March 2022



Following a successful pilot project at a local care home in 2019, Art to Heart was formed in November 2021 as an adult community therapeutic arts and music project aimed at promoting wellbeing and good mental health for elderly residents or those suffering from mobility issues.

Within months, the project had grown to almost 20 members with a growing waiting list. As word spread about the success of the project, other care homes and community groups approached the group to ask if the group could deliver more activities and events.

In March 2022, a grant of £3000 was awarded from Making a Difference to allow the group to purchase art materials and musical instruments and begin delivering sessions across the Borough. This has included sessions for carer groups looking for respite activities away from their caring duties as well as host events for Ukrainian families.

The flexibility of the project has meant that new activities can be regularly introduced, such mindfulness techniques and self-expression activities such as "Paint yourself Positive" and thanks to the Making a Difference funding, these events could be offered for free making it accessible and inclusive to all members of the community.

The effects of Covid 19 lockdowns along with periods of isolation from friends and family has had a real strain on members who use the group, with high numbers suffering with anxiety, lack of confidence and stress. Art to Heart has helped vulnerable people to overcome these feelings within a relaxing and safe environment.

Recent partnerships have included the Local Area Coordinators, Social Prescribers, care homes and the NHS. It is hoped that the project can be rolled out into more rural locations across the Borough in future to offer therapy to more residents.



The sessions have given us the chance to revitalise as well as take a break from the never ending stress of our caring roles. Art means so much more than the production of a picture. It has the ability to de stress whilst having fun, build your self esteem, make new friends and learn new and exciting skills



Shani Smith,  
Founder, Art to Heart

Being part of the Art to Heart project has been really beneficial to me. Covid isolation was hard to deal with and I became depressed. However regular meet ups has changed that. The art therapy has been so relaxing and made me switch off from the world and lose myself.

User of Art to Heart

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>Without Walls Christian Fellowship</b> Without Walls Christian Fellowship run a project called Thrive that delivers tea parties for socially isolated and lonely people living in Stanton under Bardon. Volunteers help those who don't have their own transport to attend and have a freshly cooked meal or provide takeaways for those who can't attend. In between tea parties, volunteers also keep in touch with residents and visit them in their homes. Funding was sought from Making a Difference to continue this project, with a focus on healthy eating and providing travel expenses for volunteers.</p>	£3000	The main outcome from the project was that people feel connected, cared for and part of a community. They are no longer on their own, knowing they always have something to look forward to and they can always get a visit or a telephone call. Many attendees have made new friends and enjoy now getting out and about – even some romances have started! The project has also linked with external agencies including a talk on cybercrime, Pets as Therapy and Baldwin Trust who provide guests with a free boat trips. The project has seen the mental health of people who attend the tea parties significantly improve as they have participated and one of our guests has recently become a volunteer himself at the age of 83.	140	420	8
<p><b>We Care UK</b> We Care UK is an organisation that supports local communities against food poverty, financial hardship, and social isolation. Their goal is to empower communities to break the cycle of poverty and seek positive outcomes. Funding was applied for from Making a Difference towards the provision of a 1-2-1 support service provided by professional volunteers who tailor advice in regard to welfare benefits, financial hardship, income maximization and housing rent support.</p>	£2500	The key success of the project has been to provide service users with a 1-2-1 service which is tailored to their needs. It has enable service users time to trust our service and have a direct key worker who they can contact at any time. The projects biggest achievement has been to gain the trust of service users and empower them to take control of their current negative situation and turn it into a positive outcome as it was found at the start of the project that many of the service users did not trust the service due to experiencing negative support from other providers.	450	98	6

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>DCC of Orton on the Hill</b> DCC of Orton on the Hill organises a host of events for the local community and surrounding villages as the only community space in the local area. Following public consultation, the group applied for funding to deliver a timetable of regular events to take account of local interests as well as a PA system. This has included coffee and conversation mornings, flower arranging classes, children's Halloween and Christmas parties, music and film nights and defibrillator training.</p>	£2490.72	To date the project has supported around 200 residents from Orton and neighbouring villages, with between 2 to 5 events each month. The funding has enabled most of the events to be offered for free. The public consultation demonstrated the desire for small rural communities to interact socially and stay connected, benefiting elderly, lonely and vulnerable residents the most. Our events are proving to be a lifeline, especially when our villages have no public transport, no amenities (one pub) and no other means of interacting socially.	200	180	7
<p><b>Westfield Community Centre</b> Located in Central Hinckley, the centre offers a wide range of community initiatives and projects to people living in the Hinckley area, including lunch clubs, community library, IT classes, sports and recreation, community transport and a befriending service. Officers applied for a grant from Making a Difference to establish a Community Cafe based at the Centre as part of the initiative to encourage more of the local community to return after the COVID pandemic.</p>	£3000	This project has been delayed due to acute staff shortages. New anticipated start date is 2023	TBC	TBC	TBC



# Baxter Hall

Upgrade to More Energy Efficient Heating  
Stoke Golding  
Grant Awarded: £3000  
October 2021



Everyone who uses the Baxter Hall has benefited from the installation of our new heating system. We have even started to get bookings for childrens parties which is a new opportunity for us to generate income. We now have a vibrant and comfortable space for the community to use thanks to the grant from Making a Difference



Jane White  
Chair of Baxter Hall Charity

Back in 2021, members of the Stoke Golding community were excited to welcome a new chapter for Baxter Hall after it was re-opened as a local hub for the community to use and will now operate as a registered charity under a new management team.

Built in 1896, the hall was left in trust to the village as a school and a reading room for working men but as the school relocated, the building was used to house the local playgroup as well as a community facility that provided space for a variety of community events to take place.

When the building was put up for sale in 2019, the Parish Council registered it as an asset of community value, allowing the community the time of 6 months to form the Baxter Hall Charity and approach the owners. A long term lease of 25 years was then agreed with the owners, with a longer term aspiration to purchase in building in future.

However, following the annual boiler service in 2021, the old boiler was condemned and had to be replaced along with all of the connecting pipework. It was well over 25 years old and very inefficient which made the hall very cold and draughty during the winter months.

Following an application to the Making a Difference grant scheme for £2634, the Baxter Hall Charity were able to find the funds to replace the old boiler and failing gas pipework with a brand new heating system that is safer and significantly more efficient to run. As such, the costs to heating to hall are now significantly lower and the time it takes to warm the community space becoming dramatically quicker.

The Baxter Hall Charity and the local community are extremely grateful for the funding from the Making a Difference Fund as it has really made a difference to the children and adults who use the hall on a regular basis.



Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>Art to Heart</b> Formed in 2021, Art to Heart runs community therapeutic arts/music project for promoting wellbeing and good mental health. Classes are aimed at adults that are vulnerable, isolated or lonely living in rural areas. Various types of art and music sessions will be offered to break down barriers and build confidence and self esteem . Sessions are tailored to meet the groups individual needs such as those with dementia, carer groups etc and will be delivered at various venues such as Community Centres , Church Halls and HBBC Community Houses. An application was received to cover the cost of materials and equipment needed to deliver sessions over a 12 month period.</p>	<p>£3000</p>	<p>It was found that the project has been fully subscribed, mainly because of the long periods of isolation following Covid lockdown, with attendees suffering from anxiety, loss of confidence and stress, especially in the elderly and those who care for the vulnerable. Attendees were able to build confidence and new friendships in a relaxing safe environment. One of the key success's of Art to Heart is to be able to offer quality sessions with quality materials, which has been possible through the Making a Difference grant award. The achievements for the clients have been fantastic with amazing art being produced when most say they cannot paint or draw.</p>	<p>103</p>	<p>73</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Hinckley St Marys Guides</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Hinckley St Marys Guides empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community. They applied for funding towards celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.</p>	<p>£500</p>	<p>Many positive comments were made by girls about receiving the gift and ceremonial badge. They also thoroughly enjoyed their party.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>5</p>

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>Dadlington Village Hall Committee</b> A grant was sought from the Community Volunteering Fun to organise a Big Lunch Event on Sunday 5th June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's platinum Jubilee. This is to cover table/chair hire, flags and bunting, musical entertainment provided by young professional musicians from Dadlington and a Jubilee medal for every child residing in the village.</p>	£500	The event was a huge success with high numbers of people from Dadlington. Many volunteers were willing to help to make sure that it was a day to remember for all.	8	215	2
<p><b>Carlton Defibrillator Group</b> The group applied for funding to cover the £86 annual cost of maintaining the defibrillator in the village including new pads and batteries, as well as continuing the internet phone service for local response unit in the event of an emergency.</p>	£187	The project continues to be a success as community volunteers are willing to rush out at any time of day or night to support someone who needs a defibrillator. The grant the group received enables them to continue to maintain and offer this vital and potentially life-saving piece of equipment	2	300	9
<p><b>Hinckley Gymnastics Club</b> The Club applied for funding to create a new leadership academy consisting of 7 young leaders aged 13-18 years who regularly volunteer at the gymnastics club. The academy will provide coach training and first aid that will lead to their first gymnastics qualification.</p>	£500	Young leaders are gaining experience and building confidence in working with young children, They have learnt how to use systems for registers and to ensure that safety is consistently in place. Our volunteers want to progress in the organization to develop further skills with the ultimate aim of getting a job and this grant has enabled them to gain the necessary skills and experience to do this.	80	100	6

## VCS Commissioning outcomes 2021/2022 - Evaluation Report

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p><b>Bee Unique Youth Project</b> Bee Unique is an all girls group Youth project in Markfield for girls aged 8-14 years to come together, make new friends, build confidence and grow along the way. A grant was applied for to purchase materials for their events and activities to learn new skills and build confidence.</p>	£500	Numerous events have been delivered, such as an Easter Trail, regular group activities and a Halloween event in partnership with Markfield Community Library. Seeing the community coming together and enjoying the village event was a great success that we wouldn't have been possible without the grant being provided. Running this group has helped us grow as a team and community, we are now hoping to expand to another village due to them hearing about us.	120	22	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£25,386.51</b>		<b>1966</b>	<b>2140</b>	<b>78</b>

# Hinckley U3A

Project to Boost Membership to Isolated People  
Borough Wide  
Grant Awarded: £642.94  
March 2022

Hinckley University of the Third Age a registered charity whose purpose is to advance the education and personal development of retired and older people through regular activities, with activities ranging from Art to Zumba.

Shortly before lockdown, membership peaked at 501 but dropped significantly by summer 2021. In order to try and regain numbers at a time when many people were reluctant to venture from their homes, the trustees decided to embark on a modernisation programme that would further help to publicise Hinckley u3a across the local area.

In common with areas across the UK, many people had never heard of u3a and it was felt that one way to increase publicity was to design and build a market stall that could be easily transported and erected at events across the Borough.

The trustees decided to apply for a Making a Difference grant of £642.94 in December 2021.

The stall was designed by a member using publicity materials via our national umbrella organisation, the Third Age Trust. A banner was also purchased as well as bunting and fairy lights.

In keeping with the u3a principle 'by members, for members' trustees are keen to be involved as many members as possible with all aspects of our work and a rota was set up to man the stall at local events, including the recent Burbage Common Open Day.

The group also hosted a stall at the Hollycroft Park Fun Day on 14 August 2022 as well as the Hinckley Christmas Lights switch on event in November as well as other Christmas events in the locality.



The concept of a portable market stall means that we can publicise our group to residents who have never heard of us before. It means that we can reach out to more people and become a familiar and trusted name for retired people looking for support, advice and friendship



Janice Strand  
Chair of Hinckley u3a

