



MAKING A DIFFERENCE COMMUNITY GRANTS

SUMMARY REPORT 2022 - 2023



**Hinckley Town Tennis Club
Ukrainian Tennis Sessions**



**Without Walls, Stanton under Bardon
Older Person's Christmas Lunch**



**Accept Project - Community Wellbeing Garden
Berevment Support Sessions**

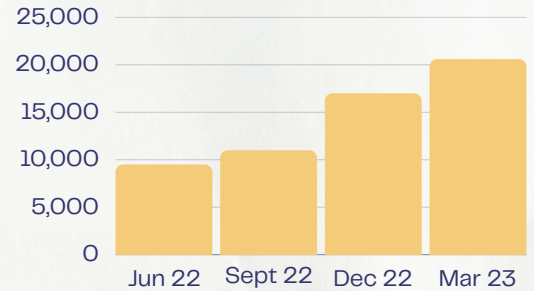
Making a Difference

This report presents the findings from the Community Volunteering Fund and Making a Difference grant programme between April 2022 to March 2023. It highlights how these small grants have big impacts on local Volunteer and Community Sector (VCS) groups across Hinckley and Bosworth, either through volunteering or benefitting residents of the Borough

COMMUNITY GROUPS SIGNED ONTO VCS DATABASE

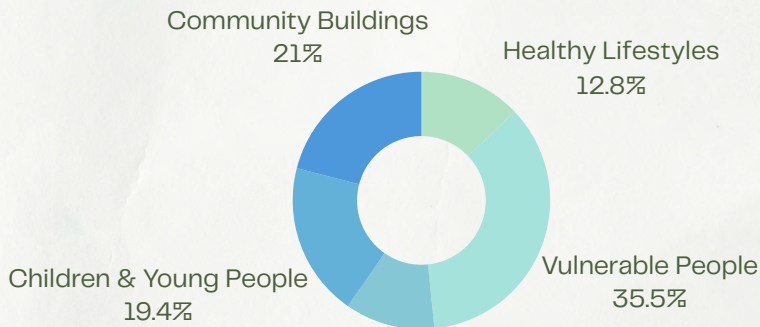
Number of community groups based in Hinckley and Bosworth signed up as members to the VCS network as of March 2023

248



NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

Cumulative numbers of local residents who have benefited from the activities of voluntary and community sector groups funded by Making a Difference



TYPES OF VCS ACTIVITY SUPPORTED BY FUNDING FROM HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Number of volunteers helping on projects and events funded by Making a Difference community grant schemes



PROJECTS DELIVERED

Number of projects, events or activities successfully delivered through grants from Making a Difference

82



TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

Total amount of grants approved for VCS groups in Hinckley and Bosworth between April 2022 and March 2023

£109,677

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

Evaluation Report

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p>Blackways Meadows Allotments Co-operative Ltd</p> <p>We are a community benefit society and provide allotment plots to the local community so that they can grow fresh, healthy vegetables themselves. A grant was used to purchase and install an eco-toilet on the community allotment plot</p>	£1,500	The new toilet facilities have enhanced the allotment for members and visitors to the site, as well as benefitting the local environment. It also forms part of the development of a social activity area for the local community to use within the community plots.	34	85	8
<p>Peckleton Village Hall Committee</p> <p>A grant was received to purchase and install a new sound and visual projection system at Peckleton Village Hall</p>	£3,000	The installation of this equipment has enabled many people to enjoy the facilities at the hall as well as making the hall more appealing to hirers and allowing the committee to consider running more events such as a community cinema	20	500	5
<p>Hinckley Running Club Juniors</p> <p>A grant paid for a training course to train young people who volunteer under Duke of Edinburgh scheme to become young leaders and running coaches for the club.</p>	£2,000	The children that participated benefitted from learning new skills, becoming more active, gaining confidence whilst making friends. Parents also saw their children grow and take up athletics as a new hobby.	65	12	3
<p>Earl Shilton Town Cricket Club</p> <p>A grant funded a project aimed at getting more children to become more active and to take up playing cricket. It included running specific sessions for children and young people who are inactive and causing anti-social behaviour.</p>	£1,500	The group provided coaching sessions to local children, including going into schools. As a result, increases were seen in the Junior Section catering between ages of 6 and 12. The sessions have also encouraged local children to get involved in cricket and become more active.	60	112	20

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

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<p>Falcon Support Services A grant was received to purchase a laptop and a computer to support staff and residents attending the weekly drop in support service at Hinckley Salvation Army</p>	£560.01	The laptop has been instrumental in helping service users at the Hinckley drop in centre to attend zoom meetings with agencies such as benefit providers etc. We also help people to create CV's, job searches, apply for work, access emails and to create email addresses so they can apply for benefits and even general google searches like the locations of places.	30	100	10
<p>4th Barwell Brownies To purchase two eight-person tents to allow Brownies to participate in regular camping trips throughout Leicestershire.</p>	£840	The tents have been used multiple times since the funding was received, including attendance at the Leicestershire Girlguiding Brownie camp during August 2022. Many future events have now been planned.	100	16	3
<p>Elohim Christian Church To provide welcome Hampers to Ukrainian families arriving in the borough which will contain information supplied from HBBC.</p>	£500	The grant enabled the group to provide welcome hampers for Ukrainian families arriving in the Borough, containing sign posting information supplied by HBBC plus Ukrainian staples for them to feel like they have a little bit of home when they arrive.	45	50	8
<p>Botcheston Village Hall Management Committee To replace all outdoor chairs and tables at Botcheston Village Hall as well as the purchase of a new outdoor marquee to benefit users of the hall</p>	£2,893	The replacement of all of the outdoor furniture has enabled the group to deliver more events and to promote local community cohesion in a safe environment.	25	100	15

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

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<p>Earl Shilton Social Institute Earl Shilton Social Institute is a large charitable community building hired by many community groups for various activities. A grant was received to replace and upgrade 5 snooker table lights to energy efficient LED strip lights</p>	£2,875	The grant from Making a Difference gave the group the opportunity to replace the old fluorescent tubes that were high energy burning with ones that are 10 times more energy efficient. It is estimated that £970 each year will be saved in electricity costs.	30	100	10
<p>Without Walls Christian fellowship Without Walls Christian Fellowship run a project called Thrive that delivers tea parties for socially isolated and lonely people living in Stanton under Bardon. A grant was applied for to support volunteers who help those who don't have their own transport to attend and have a freshly cooked meal.</p>	£1,000	The project is a practical response to a national issue, reaching elderly people who are lonely, vulnerable and isolated as we seek to improve their overall welfare. Knowing that loneliness is a significant problem in our society, the group can continue to provide this 'social prescribing' activity and connect with people in need.	40	1000	12
<p>Congerstone Kickstart CIC A grant was received to install a new access gate and security fencing and thus completing the installation of a new community building in Congerstone</p>	£3,000	The Making a Difference grant was used to complete the works to allow full community access of the building. The community building was completed in early 2023 and opened in March 2023.	160	150	5
<p>6th Hinckley (St Francis) scout group With about 60 young people wanting to go camping or on expeditions, a grant was applied for to replace our stock of camping tents so that groups can attend future camping trips and expeditions</p>	£2,408	The grant enabled the group to go camping in dry, warm non-leaking tents which was especially beneficial to our younger members, many of whom had not camped or been away from home before. It also enabled some of our leaders to qualify as camp leaders & to expand the activity to even more youngsters.	100	60	14

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

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<p>West Leicestershire Community First Responders Community first responders respond to 999 calls alongside the Ambulance service. Funding was granted to purchase three new mobile defibrillators to replace the old ones we had in service.</p>	£3,000	Thanks to the grant from Making a Difference, having the latest equipment has enabled the First Responders to achieve the best possible outcome for someone in cardiac arrest.	1500	2500	8
<p>1st Hinckley (Holy Trinity) Scout Group A grant was awarded to provide training of leaders to deliver Explorer Scout activities, namely the Mountain Leadership Training course and Duke of Edinburgh Award Training</p>	£1,500	The funding enabled two leaders to complete Mountain Leadership Training and Duke of Edinburgh Award Training to enable the District to provide a more flexible programme around the Expedition sections of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the higher Scouting Awards such as the King's Scout Award.	200	75	3
<p>Feed The Hungry UK Feed The Hungry is an humanitarian aid charity with a site at Hinckley to provide food provision to the Hinckley and Bosworth area. A grant was received to provide emergency food parcels to those in crisis in Hinckley and surrounding areas.</p>	£3,000	The grant extended the group's ability to provide emergency food parcels to those in crisis in Hinckley and surrounding areas. This project specifically targets those who are unable to attend local foodbank centres due to access issues, e.g. lack of transport, ill health.	350	260	2
<p>George Ward Table Tennis Club Funding allowed the group provide training of volunteers into coaches and the delivery of specific sessions including women and girls to attract new members to the club</p>	£3,000	Thanks to the grant we received, the club was able to re-launch in September 2022, with two new coaches, other members interested in training as coaches' level 1 and three new volunteers in the process of getting trained. Following advice from Table Tennis England, the club also managed to launch a women & girls only session.	150	70	14

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<p>Newbold Verdon Baptist Church - The Hub A grant from Making a Difference allowed the purchase of kitchen equipment including a dishwasher and new crockery for the Hub at Newbold Verdon Baptist Church</p>	£2,500	The Hub meets every Wednesday and is registered as a “Warm Space” and ran as a Coffee Morning. Activities include a Knitting Group, simple crafts; jigsaws etc. The new equipment has made a huge difference to the volunteers who cook the meals and do the washing up. It is quick, hygienic and means so much to the group	300	80	10
<p>Work-Link Project The purchase of 100 slow cookers to gift to residents of Hinckley and Bosworth who are pensioners, and those on benefits.</p>	£2,980	Slow cookers were gifted to residents of Hinckley and Bosworth who were on mean’s tested benefits. The idea came about with the cost of living crisis and soaring energy prices meaning that those on low incomes were having to choose between heating and eating.	35	300	2
<p>St Catherines' Environmental Group Funding was used to complete the third and final stage of Burbage memorial garden that included planting and new seating areas</p>	£2,200	With the help of students from Hasting High School, an area was cleared of weeds and then over 140 roses were planted as well as spring bulbs and a seating area as a social amenity. Having a mix of older and younger people working together for one aim was a joy to watch. The community spirit got everyone talking and people passing by where full of praise for the project.	32	2,500	72
<p>Time Out Carers Time Out Carers is a non profit group run by a committee of unpaid carers offering support and activities and respite time out to other unpaid carers. The grant was used to purchase a laptop, printer, software and hotspot connection to support outreach sessions led by the group.</p>	£2,307.38	The technology has helped the group maintain an online presence to support members and to undertake further fundraising efforts. It also provides members with the opportunity to stay in contact with the group if they’re unable to leave their cared for.	125	68	7

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<p>Action Homeless (Leicester) Ltd A grant allowed the group to provide warm welcome packs to people affected by homelessness moving into temporary accommodation. Packs included toiletries, towels, bedding and basic household items including a kettle and a lamp.</p>	£1,763	A significant number of people benefitted from the warm welcome packs, all of whom have been grateful to receive them. The packs made people feel more settled and have prevented them from worrying about how to access the items that are included. One recipient commented ' it made my first few weeks here so much easier as I had everything I needed to start to make this place feel like home '	40	10	5
<p>Thornton Community Centre Trustees Thornton Community Centre and Sports Hall is run by a small group of Trustees and local volunteers. A grant was received to refurbish the public toilets at the Centre that has been in place for 50 years</p>	£3,000	The work was completed in March 2023 by a local team of builders. It included new LED lighting and eco-friendly hand dryers. As Trustees, we are now no longer ashamed to show members of the public into the shabby, poorly built, smelly toilets that we have put up with for many years. They are a credit to the Centre and we are gaining more bookings as a result.	50	400	3
<p>Green Towers Hinckley Club For Young People Grant towards staff training for the climbing wall and to buy new equipment for the climbing wall.</p>	£2,750	The money provided by Making a Difference was used to refurbish and re-route the climbing wall, doubling the routes from 2 to 4. This has now also enabled us to have easier routes for beginners and harder routes for some of our more experienced climbers.	600	1,200	12
<p>St Francis Community Centre St Francis is a Community centre in Hinckley, offering space to various local groups in the surrounding area. A grant was received to pay for seating outside of the Community Centre as a social amenity.</p>	£1,028	Having comfortable seating outdoors provides the group with another safe space for members to enjoy some social interaction. The outdoor seating has also allowed for the use of the outdoor space on warmer days, this is particularly important on Thursdays when we run our Friendship café.	10	40	4



Hinckley Town Tennis

Free tennis sessions for Ukrainian refugees
Grant Awarded: £500
March 2023 - Onwards



Hinckley Town Tennis club are proud of their record of delivering tennis coaching free of charge to a number of disability groups in Leicestershire. They also allow the general public to play on their courts without having to become club members. The club is run entirely by volunteers.

With the outbreak of the Ukrainian war and a number of Ukrainians being relocated to the Hinckley area, the club were active in offering their facilities on Leicester Road to people in extreme circumstances.



The main success was to extend the hand of friendship to people who are suffering more than we can imagine. To bring a smile to their faces, especially the children, was quite a moving experience.

At the end of the sessions there is no doubt that the attendees have enjoyed their time at the club



John McGowan,
Club Secretary

A grant from Making a Difference was instrumental in helping the club to organise and run 90 minute tennis sessions and social events that were free of charge to over 20 Ukrainian refugees and their children. The events were held on the first Saturday of each month. The grant also allowed the purchase of 6 adult tennis rackets, a mini-tennis net as well as some indoor games for when it is raining. As a result, some Ukrainian attendees became club members as well as visits from the Ukrainian tennis association, who were keen to learn how to set up Ukraine based tennis clubs in other local communities.

The tennis sessions have continued throughout 2023, offering not only fun and friendship for attenders but also a chance to socialize and to improve their English language skills. Attenders have made full use of the equipment purchased with the funding, made easier with the purchase of the mini-tennis net to cater for the different age groups.



VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

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<p>Feed The Hungry UK Feed The Hungry provides food parcels for those in crisis with many referrals from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and other service professionals. The grant was used to pay for 300 hygiene packs to go alongside the food parcels that the charity offers to those unable to access foodbanks.</p>	£3,000	The grant has made a significant difference to those who have received them, with individuals are often battling illness, facing financial difficulties, complex mental health issues or unemployment. An example includes a Ukrainian family who have fled and settled in the Hinckley area. The group was able to provide this family with food, toiletries and clothes.	50	720	2
<p>DCC of Orton on the Hill, St Edith's Church As the District Church Council of Orton on the Hill, the group organize community events based out of St Edith's church. A grant was received to upgrade the existing heating and lighting to more efficient infrared and LED units and install new ones where there were previously none.</p>	£3,000	The community has been using the church to gather for social events for many years. With the new heating and lighting in place, the group are able to use the building year-round. The winter months are particularly lonely for some of our older more vulnerable residents so this is a massive benefit to them.	80	180	2
<p>Twycross Village Hall Funding was received to convert the old storage room at Twycross Village Hall into a permanent children's play room and to purchase toys and equipment</p>	£1218	Previously the hall had absolutely nothing for children and the new grant allowed a new play room to be offered to families who use the hall under initiatives such as warm hubs. We have seen older children teach younger children to play pool and table tennis together and making new friends.	20	200+	20
<p>Hinckley Town Tennis Club Equipment and indoor venue costs for the disability group.</p>	£524	The grant has enabled the club to provide an indoor facility for disabled children to enjoy tennis lessons. The new Boccia set has enabled us to offer this sport to disabled users in addition to regular tennis. The pickleball equipment has also enabled us to introduce this game to our older players, helping to keep active.	45	40	6

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

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<p>Sutton Cheney Village Garden Group A group of volunteers in Sutton Cheney working to create a wild flower area received a grant to purchase gardening tools, a variety of plants, seeds, bulbs and a small shed for the site.</p>	£2,760	The grant has allowed the group to create a space for contemplation, friendship and a natural space to enhance local biodiversity. Regular work parties have created mown paths and areas of planted wildflowers.	50	150	15
<p>Hinckley District Scouts Hinckley District Scouts is made up of 12 scout groups and 5 explorer sections that deliver Scouting to over 650 young people every week in and around the Hinckley area. A grant was received to fund training and support to deliver a network of Mental Health First Aiders within the Scout District.</p>	£3,000	The grant was used to deliver Mental Health First Aid courses to as many of our adult volunteers as we could to allow us to create a network of fully trained and qualified MHFA.	100	1,000	10
<p>Work-Link Work-Link are a local charity who provides hands on work experience to those that are furthest from the labour market. A grant was received to gift 75 electric blankets to residents of Hinckley & Bosworth who met the eligibility criteria of being on low incomes.</p>	£2,850	The project was a huge success, with all the blankets being gifted within days showing the great need for the project, allowing people to keep warm by heating their body rather than a room. Feedback showed that people were struggling with soaring energy prices but didn't anticipate by how much.	51	80	2
<p>Hinckley & District MS Society Hinckley & District MS Society support anyone affected by Multiple Sclerosis in the Hinckley area. A grant was received to fund a qualified instructor to run weekly exercise classes specific to those living with MS as well as towards transport costs for residents to attend.</p>	£2,959	The exercise class currently has an average of 20 residents attending weekly. The total face-to-face engagement in 2023 (from January to October) has been around 960 which is almost 300% higher than the same period in 2022.	122	85	6

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

Evaluation Report

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<p>Nailstone Community Group Nailstone Community Group is a small community group delivering local projects to improve the village. A grant was applied for to plant 6500 bulbs in 5 locations across Nailstone to enhance biodiversity and improve visual impact</p>	£2,028	The project was designed to improve and enhance the green spaces within Nailstone by planting 4800 spring flowering bulbs to provide colour and biodiversity for the benefit of residents and commuters passing through Nailstone.	300	22	2
<p>Work Link Project A grant was received to purchase an additional 100 slow cookers for residents on mean tested benefits</p>	£2,980	Slow cookers were gifted to residents of Hinckley and Bosworth who were pensioners, and/or on benefits at a cost of £1. The idea came about as the cost of living coupled with soaring energy prices meant that those on low incomes were having to choose between heating and eating.	35	300	2
<p>St John's Parochial Church Council St John's Church has been serving the community of Hinckley since the late 1930s, including a 'stay and play' groups for under 5s, a Friday night youth group and the collection and distribution of food for Hinckley Food Bank. A grant was applied for to cover the running costs of the Oasis centre and its activities.</p>	£2,250	The Making a Difference grant has funded some of the activity and running costs of Oasis Community café, allowing it to continue as a welcoming, accessible and supportive place which enables local people to engage in community life, make connections and receive informal support and signposting for other relevant services.	160	860	20
<p>Stoke Golding Methodist Church With membership declining in recent years, Stoke Golding Methodist Church applied for funding to open a Community Café in the church hall where the local community can gather during the week</p>	£3,000	The Cameo Café officially opened in May 2023 with new heating, lighting, windows, kitchen and modern café furniture. The cafe is already turning over a small profit, with an average of 40 visitors a day.	12	332	3

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<p>Burbage Crusaders Bowling Club</p> <p>Burbage Crusaders are a small bowling club that cater for elderly and disabled members. A grant was received to purchase a bowling wheelchair for use by anyone wishing to use the Parish Bowling Green.</p>	£1,028	Currently the wheelchair benefits our disabled members but is available to any member who wants to use it, for example at larger events such as the Bowls Big Weekend on 28th May 2023. The availability of the wheelchair will encourage more bowlers to continue bowling.	60	5	3
<p>ACCEPT</p> <p>The ACCEPT project supports referred clients to different types of bereavement support, ranging from losing partners to loss due to suicide. A grant was received to pay for sessional staff to deliver ongoing bereavement support at the group's Community Wellbeing Garden in Barwell.</p>	£1,500	NHS Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) Staff & Local Area Co-ordinators have liaised with ACCEPT on a regular basis and made referrals to the project. Many clients had experienced isolation, alongside long term mental health issues, resulting in a loss of confidence in attending new venues and meeting new people, which creates much anxiety for them.	20	19	2
<p>Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland</p> <p>Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland provide ongoing services for older people to improve their health and wellbeing. A grant was received to upgrade the lighting at Earl Shilton Senior Citizens Centre to LED lighting.</p>	£3,000	With thanks to the Making a Difference grant, the centre and its attendees have benefitted from the new installation of 50 LED energy-saving lightbulbs. An important outcome for this project is the reduction in the centre's Carbon print. Roughly, one LED bulb will minimize greenhouse gas emissions by almost half a ton.	3000	600	16
<p>Sport in Desford</p> <p>Sport in Desford 's (SID) objects are the promotion of sport and recreation to the local community of Desford and beyond. A grant from Making a Difference was received to set up of mental health sessions for affected participants.</p>	£1,000	The "State of Mind" Mental Health project is being delivered at Sport in Desford in a weekly 2 hour sessions. People with mental health issues come together to engage in a variety of physical activities alongside exploring relevant therapies, such as mindfulness.	48	12	1

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<p>Sutton Cheney in Bloom Residents in Sutton Cheney formed a village bloom group who applied for funding to make Sutton Cheney more attractive for the local community. Funding was applied for add oak barrels and hanging baskets in the village, as well as plants and compost.</p>	£350	Although the project is ongoing, the village community are thrilled with the new planters and keen to help with their future maintenance, including watering and replacing the plants.	20	250	6
<p>Druziv of Ukraine Leics & Warks A grant was applied for to provide art supplies and to start a series of art and craft therapy Sessions for Ukrainian refugees who have moved into the area and are living with sponsors</p>	£500	The event was hugely successful with participants who were able to socialise with other Ukrainian refugees, sponsors and supporters and express themselves through art. There are approximately 30 to 40 people who attend each week as well as new arrivals to the area. HBBC and DWP also attend periodically.	50	40	2
<p>Barlestone Wombles Barlestone Wombles are a local group of volunteer litterpickers to tidy the villages of Barlestone and Osbaston. Funding was applied for to host a community litter pick event.</p>	£200	The event focused on "grot spots" for litter that included broken glass around the youth shelter and children's playground. The project gave great visibility that volunteers are working in the community and that anyone is welcome to join the group.	2000	30	10
<p>Music and Movement A grant was applied for to cover public liability insurance which is a huge expense to the group as a small music therapy group in Market Bosworth.</p>	£111	The Grant has allowed us to continue our sessions at the parish hall in Market Bosworth.	9	15	1
<p>Ambion Court Sheltered Accommodation A grant was applied for to the Community Volunteering Fund to launch a watercolour art class for residents and families at the sheltered accomodation at Ambion Court.</p>	£425	The residents and their families benefitted hugely by getting out of their flats and socializing with other people. It was a great way to improve mental health as well as learning a new skill.	80	10	1

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<p>ASB- Autism Space to Belong Autism Space to Belong is a group aimed at supporting children and their families with autism across Hinckley and Bosworth. A grant was received to cover the costs of hosting sessions in Burbage.</p>	£500	Following its launch, feedback has been mainly from parents who are being supported just as much as the children. Parents can chat to other parents, who are very often in the same position, looking for help, support and guidance.	100	35	1
<p>Elohim Christian Church A grant was received to fund a warm welcome initiative starting in October 2022 until March 2023 that will provide a place where people can come for a warm, a hot drink and some company so that they don't have to put heating on at home.</p>	£500	Funding allowed the group to offer a warm welcome scheme at Elohim Community Church, to support those in need locally to feel like they have a place to go. This included families who need a little extra as well as isolated people living in the area.	40	85	6
<p>Burbage surgery PPG Funding was received to host a coffee morning aimed at those in the community who are lonely, isolated and in need of help and support with their mental and social well being.</p>	£500	The coffee morning has over 40 people turning up on a regular basis. The people who attend are lonely, isolated and in need of help and support with their mental and social wellbeing and are being supported by the café.	2	35	6
<p>Bee Unique Youth Project A grant was received to allow the group to host more events at their youth club in Markfield</p>	£500	The grant allowed the youth club to continue to provide a wide programme of different activities during 2022, with positive feedback made by girls about how they are enjoying it.	5	18	1
<p>Barwell & Hollycroft Surgery Telephone Befrienders The group offers a telephone befriending service to individuals who have been identified by health care professionals. Funding was used to pay for a Christmas Lunch for the clients who use the service</p>	£180	The Christmas celebration helped our clients to re-engage with society in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. It also enabled the befrienders to develop their friendship with their befriendees.	280	45	16

MS Society Hinckley

Exercise, coffee & chat for those living with multiple sclerosis

Grant Awarded: £2,959

January 2023 onwards

The MS Hinckley group has offered support to those with Multiple Sclerosis in the Hinckley & Bosworth area for 55 years. Following the COVID pandemic, the group wanted to respond to the increasing isolation of group members and the impact on their mental health.

As a result, the group applied to Making a Difference to launch weekly exercise classes for those living with MS, offering disability-appropriate exercises run by specialist healthcare professionals. The grant covered the costs of a professional instructor from the Leicester Tigers Foundation, as well as helping with transport costs to ensure more people to attend the sessions.

Since October 2023, the exercises classes have attracted 20 regular attendees which is seen as a phenomenal result due to the number of people having regular medical appointments or illness. The group continues to welcome new members as well as keeping in touch with existing ones.

The project also includes the launch of a coffee morning which initially was to follow after the exercise class, however it soon became apparent that this social half-hour was almost as positive an impact on the attendees as the actual exercise session itself. It now operates as a stand alone session where residents living with MS can check in with each other and offer support to or receive support from others with lived experience.



“Our aim was to improve both the mental well-being and also the physical health of people in our district who are living with MS.

The pandemic has had a more prominent impact on these members of our local community than most and many have become increasingly isolated and physically declined at a greater rate than most.”



Fiona Catton
Group Leader of MS
Society, Hinckley



VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

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<p>Desford Striders RC The funding allowed the group to deliver a Couch to 5km programme which is a 8 week course to attract people into running.</p>	£500	The funding allowed the group to purchase high vis vests and torches to make the sessions as safe as possible. The funding also paid for a celebration at the end of the programme to those who completed the course.	50	8	4
<p>Markfield Community Library The community library is run by volunteers as an important community asset in Markfield. The grant allowed the group to purchase a new Hoover.</p>	£380	A new Hoover allowed the group to keep the library clean and tidy as an important public amenity space in Markfield. As the library receives no financial support, the group were managing on a very old donated Hoover which was too heavy for elderly volunteers to use. They are very grateful for the new one.	450	500	20
<p>Hinckley & District Museum A grant was received to undertake essential repairs and maintenance work to Hinckley Museum which is a Grade II listed 17th century cottage.</p>	£500	The grant allowed the group to ensure that the building remains safe for visitors and volunteers as a community space. The work also replaced a faulty spotlight in the museum as well as a light to the storage area to improve the safety of volunteers accessing it.	150	700	35
<p>Time Out Carers Group A grant was applied for to fund mindfulness sessions to provide respite, relaxation and a warm, social space for local unpaid carers</p>	£500	Feedback from the carers show that all users have benefited from the mindfulness sessions	18	68	7
<p>Hinckley Town Tennis Club A grant was received to fund monthly free tennis sessions for Ukrainian refugees</p>	£500	The funding paid for 6 adult tennis rackets, a mini-tennis net as well as some indoor games for when it is raining. The group provided free tennis coaching and free use of the courts. The sessions have attracted over 20 attendees.	24	39	10

VCS Commissioning outcomes 2022/2023

Evaluation Report

Project Overview and Objectives	Funding allocated	Key outputs/outcomes	Project Hours	Number of beneficiaries	Project Volunteers
<p>Nailstone Little Fishes</p> <p>A grant was received to launch a warm welcoming safe place for preschool children, parents, carers and childminders to meet, chat and socially interact. the preschool will be held at All Saints Church in Nailstone and will be promoted via social media.</p>	£500	The idea came about from conversations with parents living in Nailstone where no provision was currently being offered. As the church offered a warm, safe and welcoming environment, the new preschool offered the chance for young families to interact, thus reducing loneliness and promoting social isolation and chance for families to support each other, something that often happens in rural communities.	50	25	5
<p>Green Towers Badminton/Short Tennis</p> <p>Funding was received to run 2 badminton groups at Green Towers, including the purchase of equipment needed to enable more people to play at these clubs, plus advertising to reach more players.</p>	£500	Funding was received to run two badminton groups at Green Towers and included the purchase of equipment needed to enable more people to play at these clubs.	50	6	50
<p>Ratby Community Library</p> <p>Ratby community library is run by trustees and volunteers and has no other regular external funding. A grant was received to allow the volunteers to purchase a new vacuum cleaner plus professionally cleaning the existing carpet.</p>	£500	The library supports a number of different community groups, including community cafe, Wiggly Readers for pre-school children, an art club, monthly quiz and sitting yoga session. With a foot fall of approximately 1,000 people per week, the group are grateful for the new hoover as the old one is heavy and cumbersome.	50	1000	24
<p>Coffee in the Pub</p> <p>A grant paid for the launch a new community coffee morning in the George and Dragon pub in Stoke Golding to provide a warm, welcoming and safe place for people to meet, chat and socially interact.</p>	£300	The grant enabled the group to purchase all of the things required to run a community cafe. The project has addressed loneliness and isolation that is often so prevalent in rural communities. The project was further promoted by the Rural Coffee Connect project. Drinks were initially offered free of charge, but now locals are being charged a small fee to cover costs.	125	40	4

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<p>Sheepy Playing Field A grant enabled the group to plant a large wildflower meadow at the recreation area in the village.</p>	£485	The planting event went very well with a total of 624 plugs planted by around 10 people from the local community. This included 'bee friendly' British native wildflowers. It is hoped that the wildflowers will encourage more wildlife and enjoyment for all. The local primary school also appointed "Junior Ambassadors" alongside the volunteers who will help to maintain and promote the project to the local community over the long term.	14	70	20
<p>Without Walls A grant was applied for to hold a free pirate-themed fun day for families in Stanton under Bardon with games, prizes, free barbeque and a large pirate ship for children to play on.</p>	£500	The event was a massive success with over 300 people attending.	1	300	6
<p>Ambion Connection A grant was recieved to launch a community warm space at Ambion Court sheltered housing in Market Bosworth. The main aim was to provide a warm safe place for people to connect and to interact. The sessions would be offered a free enabling as many as possible to attend.</p>	£400	Residents agreed that this was a great idea to provide an event that is warm, safe and welcoming for people to meet and connect. The programme of events was promoted on social media, newsletters and at residents meetings. Different speakers were present at different meetings and to promote the chance to make new connections to address isolation and loneliness.	60	32	8

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<p>Sheepy Bonfire Society NHW To purchase and install a Brazier beacon as a lasting memorial for the Queen's Jubilee</p>	£959	The event was a huge success with high numbers of people from Sheepy Magna and surrounding villages. The village now has a lasting memorial of this historic day, with volunteers in the village willing to use it for future events.	60	500	12
<p>Botcheston Village Hall Funding was applied for to host a community gala as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.</p>	£500	The event consisted of a number of organised events throughout the day including live music, activities and entertainment. It was promoted to residents of Botcheston, Newtown Unthank and Kirby Grange.	58	250	8
<p>3rd Hinckley St Francis Rainbows A grant enabled the group to purchase craft supplies, stationary, outdoor tables and chairs so that they could host a Jubilee celebration as well as other future outdoor events</p>	£600	The girls were able to celebrate this historical occasion with many positive comments were made by girls about receiving the commemorative badge. They also thoroughly enjoyed their party.	35	45	3
<p>Peckleton Village Hall Committee To deliver a street party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in Peckleton.</p>	£1,400	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.	120	300	9
<p>Botcheston Womens Institute To plant a memorial tree with stone plaque in Botcheston to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee</p>	£300	People living in Botcheston were able to celebrate this historical occasion by planting a tree as a lasting memorial to Queen Elizabeth II	5	100	4
<p>7th Hinckley URC Brownies A celebration event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee</p>	£150	Each girl designed a Jubilee inspired commemorative tea towel which were then printed and given to the girls to keep. The grant also paid for a Jubilee party as well as metal Jubilee badge for each girl. Around 24 girls were involved from different areas across Hinckley	3	15	2

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<p>The Beacon Church</p> <p>The grant funded a partnership project between Richmond Primary School in Hinckley and the Beacon Church for families to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee</p>	£1285.43	The event was a huge success. Not only did students from Richmond Primary School attend, but also parents, carers and the wider community were invited too. The event helped with community spirit and enhancing relationships between the school and the local community.	8	200	6
<p>Hinckley District Scout Council</p> <p>To host a Teddy Bears' picnic afternoon at Fox Coverts, near Kirby Mallory, for 190 Beavers to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.</p>	£1,550	The grant paid for the cost of hiring the campsite, the cost of materials for craft activities, the cost of a children's entertainer, the cost of catering for all children attending and the cost of a commemorative blanket badge to take home and keep.	5	190	18
<p>Carlton Volunteer Group</p> <p>The grant was received to organise a street party for all Carlton villagers to enjoy celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee together as a community</p>	£500	The grant was used for table and street decorations, providing activities for the children, providing music for all ages and issuing invitations to residents.	4	180	3
<p>All Saints Church Church, Sheepy Magna</p> <p>Funding allowed a garden community party with a brass band to be delivered to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.</p>	£500	As part of the community celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, All Saints hosted a traditional garden party on the Rectory lawn with a brass band, family garden games and children's activities. It was offered as a free event open and accessible to all who wished to gather with family and friends in celebration.	106	3	18
<p>George Ward Centre</p> <p>Family activity day to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee</p>	£1,450	The grant was used to pay for a family fun day, with kids activities, party decorations and hand flags to wave. All attendees were given a free jubilee medal to take home to mark this once in a lifetime occasion.	30	450	9

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<p>Witherley Memorial Playing Field Trust The charity owns and maintains the recreation area in Witherley and a grant was sought to install a Platinum Jubilee Memorial Bench in Witherley Playing Fields.</p>	£1,000	The Bench serves as a long term memorial to the Queen, appreciated by the local community as it provides a social amenity for users of the park. The Bench is also a good example of the local community working together to improve local amenities in Witherley.	12	200	5
<p>King Richards Hill Picnic on the Green Funding was applied for to host a community picnic for the community to enjoy with local entertainment and games on Bosworth Green.</p>	£400	The event was a huge success, with the community coming together to celebrate the Jubilee. It helped to make new friendships and persuaded the group to lead on more community based events in the future	5	75	5
<p>Kirkby Mallory School Room Committee A grant was received for a community "Picnic in the Park" event to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.</p>	£300	The event brought local residents together after a long period of isolation due to COVID. It included children's activities, local music and prizes to take home. A large marquee was also donated by Mallory Park.	6	55	14
<p>Hinckley Bowling Club A grant was applied for to allow the group to hold a community party to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. It is an event open to everyone and was seen as a joint project between the Bowling club and local residents.</p>	£500	The event went really well, food was supplied on a bring and share basis and there was a bowling "have a go" at as well as party games. The event had the spirit of a traditional street party with lots of mixing and sharing as well as meeting new people. It was a very special way to celebrate this big event.	6	20	8
<p>Hope Community Church Funding was applied for to host a Jubilee Tea Party where the Church and outside area will be decorated and open for the local community in this area to attend a tea party.</p>	£500	The event was a great success, with elderly people from our coffee morning in attendance as well as members of the W.I, our local scout group and families that use our preschool.	9	45	3

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<p>Barwell Time Out Carers Group A grant was received for a social event for the unpaid carers and their cared for to come together and celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.</p>	£320	The event was held at Earl Shilton Community House on Peggs Close and was open to all members of the group as well as their cared for. It gave real opportunity to share in the momentous occasion without additional pressures and expenses to them.	10	50	3
<p>3rd St Francis Guides A grant was applied for taking a groups of guides to the Hinckley tea rooms to get dressed up and celebrate with an old fashioned afternoon tea for the Queens Jubilee</p>	£480	The grant supported a local small business as well as allowing the girls remembering this special occasion with taking part in a local special dedicated event.	15	20	4
<p>St Martin's Church Stapleton District Church Council The District Church Council applied for funding to organise a beacon lighting event to mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee as part of the nationwide beacon lighting initiative.</p>	£200	The event brought together the village community of Stapleton together to mark this historic event. The beacon lighting was held at the recently reopened Nags Head pub to help support a local business.	15	50	5
<p>Meadow Road Community Centre Funding was applied for to host an old fashioned Tea Party with entertainment at the Community Centre to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.</p>	£250	The grant was used to pay for a celebration event, with music, food and party decorations and hand flags to wave. All attendees were given a Jubilee coin to take home to mark this special occasion.	1664	312	5



Work Link Project

Slow cookers offered to residents on low incomes
Grant Awarded: £2850
December 2022



Worklink is a small, independent reuse charity working within the Hinckley & Bosworth community for over 36 years. In addition to their usual furniture & appliance reuse work the charity was looking for ways and projects aimed at helping the most vulnerable residents of Hinckley & Bosworth.

The charity was aware of residents genuinely struggling with the cost-of-living crisis which wasn't improving. It felt that in 2022/23 individuals and families shouldn't have to be making a decision as to if they can afford to cook a meal or stay warm.

It became increasingly obvious to Work Link Project from customer feedback at their shop that the cost-of-living crisis meant that some people were making the decision to either eat or put the heating on. The project was advertised widely on social media and each slow cooker that was gifted was also issued with a recipe sheet where instructions on how to roast a chicken, or to make a healthy casserole.

All of the 220 slow cookers were also collected within days as they are a cheaper alternative to using a cooker or oven. On average, a slow cooker draws about the same amount of energy as a standard electric light bulb.

Demand far exceeded the stock level that the grant provided, with people queuing outside the shop to receive one. "The grant funding we received really did make a difference to peoples lives" says Mandy Chapman, project manager.



We are very thankful or this project. Me and my husband are on benefits and are struggling to get by. As winter approaches, we don't know how we are able to have warm and nutritious meals. Thanks to our new slow cooker, my disabled husband and I can keep warm without us spending a fortune.



Service User,
Work-Link Project

