

Funding Opportunities for the West Midlands

- *Please note, tight deadline grants are still included in case of 'ready to go' projects.*
- *Region-specific grants located first in newsletter. England and UK-wide located later.*
- *Please scroll right down for funds with no deadlines or repeats from previous month.*
 - *None of the funds listed are specifically endorsed by Natural England.*
- *Please tell us about any funding successes following our newsletter suggestions!*

UK Community Foundations: Please check these for locally based Community Foundations who can offer various grants and support:

- [Worcestershire Community Foundation](#)
- [Herefordshire Community Foundation](#)
- [Heart of England Community Foundation \(Coventry, Warwickshire, Solihull, Birmingham & The Black Country\)](#)
- [Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire](#)

Birmingham Fairer Futures Fund – Locality Small Grants (Birmingham and Solihull)

Launched in 2022, the £22.2m Fairer Futures Fund (FFF) supports new, community-based projects in Birmingham and Solihull. The FFF is part of the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System's (BSol ICS) goal to transform health and social care over the next five years. This includes integrating services closer to people's homes and focusing on preventing ill-health. All applicants need to work with the local FFF organisation (generally Neighbourhood Network Schemes for the area) before they can apply. **Deadline: 9th January 2025**

Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund (Birmingham & the Black Country)

The Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund has now reopened! The fund has grants up to £3,000 and aims to support people in Birmingham and the Black Country.

Applications must meet one of the following aims:

- Promote health and wellbeing
- Tackling disadvantage
- Support local solutions to meet local needs
- Promote community cohesion
- Develop sustainable and supporting communities

Tipton Education Fund (Tipton)

The Tipton Education Fund was established to raise the educational attainment of Tipton. Through this fund, we aim to support projects which meet one of the following themes:

- Overcome barriers to learning e.g. using art, drama, sport or music as an engagement tool,
- Raising aspirations of children and young people,
- Supporting family learning and encouraging healthy living,
- Encouraging and supporting children to read outside of the school day,
- Providing enrichment opportunities for children, young people and families that they wouldn't otherwise have access to. For example, learning how to cook together, arts, gardening etc.

Small grants of up to £3,000 and large grants of up to £10,000 per annum are available.

Natural Networks Programme (Worcester City only)

Offering grants and advice to projects which aim to create/restore wildlife-rich habitats. It is a partnership between Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, offering free professional Biodiversity surveys carried out by the Trust who will assess your project site and make recommendations on how to create or enhance your land to maximise habitats for wildlife. Grants of £1,000 - £15,000 are available (up to 70% of the total project will be available to help you carry out recommendations in the survey).

- Private sector organisations will be expected to match fund at least 50% of the project
- Public or voluntary sector organisations will be expected to match fund at least 30% of the project

Applicants need to email naturalnetworks@worcestershire.gov.uk to request a link to the registration application portal.

Herefordshire Community Foundation - CPRE (Herefordshire)

The Herefordshire Community Foundation exists to benefit disadvantaged communities by making grants to support relevant charitable or voluntary organisations, which make a difference to their local communities. Through the CPRE programme the foundation provides funding to organisations working to preserve and support the tranquillity of Herefordshire's countryside. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

Crowdfund Shropshire (Shropshire)

Crowdfund Shropshire, the new civic fundraising platform where community groups can get their projects funded by public and grant funding, is opening in the next month. Projects can bid for up to can pitch for up to £10,000 from the Shared Prosperity Community Fund and up to £20,000 from the Green Spaces and Active Travel Fund. Currently 5 projects crowdfunding at the moment. They include Rural Art Hub, Walking in Wem, Multicultural Children's Day, Little Stars in the Community and Get Crafty With Words. [Check out their projects here](#) for inspiration and donate or spread the word to help them reach their goal!

The Saintbury Trust (West Midlands, with focus on Birmingham and Worcester)

Arts, heritage, the environment and helping those with disabilities. £1,000 - £5,000. Larger grants tend to be awarded to charities of which the trustees have special knowledge or in the work of which they have a particular interest. **Ongoing**

Funding of up to £200,000 Available for Community & Environmental Projects (East Midland, West Midlands, South West England)

Local charities, volunteer and community groups, schools, colleges and local authority or parish councils in the Severn Trent Water region can apply for grants of between £2,000 and £200,000 to support new local community projects. The funding is being made available through the Severn Trent Water Community Fund. It will support projects that help people lead healthier lifestyles, gain new skills, create better places to live in and use, and protect the natural environment. Match funding is required for applications over £10,000. The next closing date for applications of **up to £10,000 is the 12th January 2025.**

UK/England wide:

Final season for Nature for Climate tree funding at the NHS Forest (UK)

The planting season is upon us and this may be the last year we offer this many fully funded trees in one go. Whilst the NHS Forest project will continue, our Nature for Climate and Trees Call to Action funding is planned to finish in March 2025, so we invite you to take advantage of this fantastic tree offer while you can. This is a chance to do something positive and lasting for your healthcare site by planting a legacy for future generations. [Find out more on the NHS Forest website.](#)

We have a magnificent selection of trees, from robust broad-leaved bundles to the sweetest fruit trees. Trees come with stakes, guards and mulch mats, offering huge savings and incredible value. All this is completely free of charge for your site and is paid for by our Defra funding. Order now to include tree planting in your Christmas celebrations for staff, patients and the local community.

Enovert Community Trust (UK)

An Environmental body which supports community and environmental projects. The Trust awards grants under the terms of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), providing funding to a broad range of projects that have a positive impact on local communities. The Trust is committed to supporting community and environmental projects across the UK. These include improving community halls, the creation of new play areas and skate parks, and restoring green spaces. Fundraising by applicants is looked upon favourably by the Trustees. Applicants will need to secure a 10% third party contribution which will be payable to Enovert Limited prior to the project commencing. **Closing date for applications is 30th November 2024.**

Gardening with Disabilities Trust (UK)

Grants are available to individuals via the Gardening with Disabilities Trust in order that they may continue to garden, despite advancing illness, age or disability. In order to apply for a grant, individuals must have a written note from their GP, social worker or occupational therapist, describing their disability. The Trust offers a range of support measures such as; adapting private gardens to meet the special needs of the disabled; making grants towards tools, raised beds, paving and greenhouses; providing help with special gardens in hospitals, centres and schools; distributing information on garden aid and techniques; providing a forum for disabled gardeners by publishing the Garden Club's magazine. **The closing date for applications is 30th November 2024.**

Grants for the Planting and Care of Trees, Hedges & Orchards (UK)

The Tree Council is inviting applications from schools, community groups, parish and town councils, and tree warden networks within the UK, etc can apply for grants of between £250 and £2,500 to get communities and young people up to the age of 21 involved in planting and caring for trees, hedges and orchards. The funding will cover the cost of trees, hedges and fruit trees; reasonable costs of non-plastic protection and supports, as well as peat-free compost and/or soil improvers. **The closing date for applications is midnight on the 1st December 2024.**

Funding to Empower Vulnerable, Disadvantaged & Under-Represented Communities (UK)

Bentley Motors Ltd makes grants of up to £500 available to charitable organisations working with vulnerable, disadvantaged or under-represented communities. The Advancing Life Chances Small Grants Programme provides funding for communities within 20 miles of 19 Bentley retail locations across the UK. The programme aims to empower these communities by removing barriers and improving access to services, education and employability; helping people to develop life skills; safeguarding the environment and boosting community spirit; and helping people live healthier lives. The next closing date for applications is the **20th December 2024.**

Free Trees for Schools & Community Groups (UK)

Hundreds of thousands of trees are being given away to help the UK reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target. Schools, nurseries, colleges, universities, outdoor learning centres, and other groups such as resident associations, sports clubs, parish councils, scouts and guides from across the UK are among the organisations eligible to apply for up to 420 saplings to improve their local environment. Tree packs include hedging, copse, wild harvest, year-round colour, working wood, wild wood, wildlife, and urban trees. **Applications are expected to close 13th January 2025 or sooner depending on stock.**

Lloyds Bank Foundation Offers Funding for Specialist Small Charities (England)

The Foundation has announced that it will be awarding 83 unrestricted grants of £75,000 over three years, alongside tailored development support, to small, local, specialist charities supporting people to overcome complex issues in England and Wales. Grants are available to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of small, local specialist charities supporting people.

Deadline: 23 January 2025

Funding for Activities to Improve People's Lives (UK)

Grants for UK registered charities seeking to enhance and improve people's lives through advancing the arts, health and medical welfare, and the environment. The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust typically awards grants of between £500 and £6,000 for projects and core costs, with a preference for small-scale, locally based initiatives e.g. promoting access to the arts, conservation activities, music and art therapy to improve mental health and wellbeing, and providing breaks for carers. 3 meetings annually. Projects should have a start date of at least 3 months after the meeting date.

deadline 4th February 2025.

The Dulverton Trust Fund (UK)

There are grants of up to £5,000 available for organisations and funding must be spent within 1 year. Applications must meet one of the following priorities:

- Youth opportunities
- General welfare
- Conservation
- Heritage

Application deadline: Panel meetings will take place in October 2024 and February 2025.

The Cruach Trust (UK)

The Trust has a preference for supporting gardeners, retired gardeners and for preserving gardens throughout the United Kingdom. Previous grants have been awarded to support horticultural apprenticeships; gardens, wildlife and the natural environment; music, the arts and cultural charities; medical research and support and to organisations working with children, the elderly and vulnerable. **The closing date for applications is 12th September 2025.**

The Hedley Foundation Grant (UK)

The fund's main objective is Young people: their education, recreation, support, training, health and welfare. The subsidiary objectives are disabled people and the terminally ill: provision of specialist equipment and support for carers. Most successful grants will be of capital or one-off nature, but the Trustees sometimes agree to help fund the introduction of new and innovative projects with a series of up to 3 annual grants. Few grants exceed £5,000 (the average being £3,000) and most of them go to charities where they can make an impact. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

Bernard Sunley Foundation Funding for Projects that Raise People's Quality of Life (England & Wales)

The Bernard Sunley Foundation aims to raise the quality of life in England and Wales, particularly for the young, disadvantaged and older people. Through the Health funding strand, the Foundation supports building and refurbishment projects, specialist new transport and the creation of outdoor or recreational spaces for care homes, hospices, day centres and other facilities that provide relief and sanctuary for patients, their families and those with special needs. The emphasis is on helping charities that are providing an excellent standard of care and support within their communities.

There are large grants of £20,000 and above; medium grants of up to £20,000 and small grants of £5,000 and under. Funding is only available for capital items. Revenue costs are not funded.

Applications can be made at any time.

Forestry Commission England Woodland Creation Offer (England)

England Woodland Creation Offer is one of a suite of Forestry Commission initiatives to support woodland creation and tree planting across England. Landowners, land managers and public bodies can apply to the England Woodland Creation Offer for support to create new woodland, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as 1 hectare. The grant will cover standard capital costs for tree planting (up to a per hectare cap), as well as rewarding farmers and landowners for providing public and/or wider environmental benefits. **Closing date for applications is 30th June 2025.**

Funds with no application deadline, carried over from previous month.

"I've got an Idea" Fund (UK)

Individuals or small groups or organisations in the UK who have a novel technical idea which they want to try out can apply for grants of between £250 and £3,000. Schools and groups of school children can also apply if the idea is technically inventive and novel and delivers either an environmental or social benefit. The fund is looking for ideas that are based on a technical idea or innovation; that could deliver a social or environmental benefit; and that are intriguing, inventive and have an element of fun. Applicants informed within 4 weeks of submission if successful.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

Rhododendron Trust (UK)

Grants of £1,000 to £2,000 to registered charities supporting the disadvantaged in the developing world and the UK and to those supporting the arts and wildlife. Smaller Charities are prioritised. In the UK, support is given to charities working with those disadvantaged by disability or mental illness; prisoners and ex-offenders; drug addiction; homelessness; carers; the elderly; disadvantaged children. Arts and Nature funding is mainly through the National Churches Trust and Fauna and Flora International, however proposals for the protection of cultural and natural heritage or environmental sustainability are accepted. **Applications can be submitted at any time**

Rufford Foundation Grants Programme (UK)

The Foundation is a UK based charity who's main remit is to offer Rufford Small Grants for nature conservation projects in the developing world. The Rufford Small Grants Foundation supports small scale or pilot projects with a nature/biodiversity conservation focus and has a broad scope of interest, as well as the conservation of particular threatened charismatic species, the protection of which is likely to benefit their natural habitat, it is also interested in those often neglected or less well known species. It is also keen to support projects which go beyond a species specific focus to provide habitat protection at a wider scale. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

The Stobart Group Sustainability Fund (UK)

A new fund to support community-led environmental and sustainability projects across the UK. For not-for-profit organisations, community groups, and educational facilities, such as schools and colleges, in transforming their local communities through projects that:

- tackle climate change
- reduce carbon emissions
- protect and enhance the environment

The fund aims to help educate communities on how they can make a difference by supporting diverse projects and initiatives making a positive change. Organisations are invited to specify the level of funding they require in their application. **No application deadline is given.**

The Edward Gostling Foundation Grant (UK)

Providing grants to charities with the aim of enhancing quality of life for people in need, more particularly those living on very low incomes who have a physical and/or a mental disability or the elderly. Grants are available under the following 4 themes: Health and Wellbeing; Independent Living at Home; Respite; Transition. **Applications any time.**

Millward Charitable Trust (UK)

Millward Charitable Trust makes grants to organisations involved with community buildings, facilities and open spaces, social welfare projects, for the performing arts, medical research and animal welfare. One off grants range from £1,000 to £20,000. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**
maurice@mauricemillward.co.uk

Rayne Foundation Grants Programme (UK)

Offering grants to tackle entrenched social issues through the arts, health, wellbeing, and education. With a particular focus on connecting communities, building bridges between marginalised groups and mainstream society, and enabling individuals to reach their full potential. The annual grant making programme is in the region of £1.5 million and grants typically fall in the range of £10,000 to £20,000 per annum for up to three years. Funding is available both for capital and revenue expenditure. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation (UK)

Grant making foundation that give grants to small and medium sized local organisations in the UK with a demonstrable track record of success working to address local issues in communities of extreme urban deprivation and deprived rural districts. Small grants programme provides funding of between £2,000 and £10,000 to charitable organisations with an income of less than £250,000 for projects that focus on Community Support. E.g. Community Services; Community Centres; Alternative Education; Training, mentoring, employment and volunteering opportunities; Youth; Counselling; Family Support Services; Substance Misuse. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

The Albert Hunt Trust (UK)

The Trust will consider applications from registered charities, organisations and projects based in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that provide Hospice Care; provide support for the Homeless and promote health and well being; including physical and learning disabilities, physical and mental health, plus social challenges and deprivation. **Applications can be submitted at any time. Currently closed to Capital Funding requests.**

The Allen Lane Foundation (UK)

The Foundation aims to fund work benefitting people affected by mental health problems – lessening their isolation and feelings of stigma, improving wellbeing and promoting recovery, and enabling people to feel included in their local communities. The Foundation funds organisations that provide general services and activities to people with mental health conditions; as well as groups working with people affected by specific or particular issues – such as bipolar disorder, or depression, or self-harm, or eating disorders for example. The maximum grant is £15,000. The average grant size is around £5,000-£6,000. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

MacRobert Trust (UK)

The MacRobert Trust makes grants to registered charities in the areas of Services and Sea; Education and Training; Children and Youth; Science, Engineering and Technology; Agriculture and Horticulture; and Tarland and the Local Area. Grants can range between £1,000 and £50,000 and occasionally the Trustees make a recurring grant of up to three years. In addition a small grants programme facilitates awards of up to £10,000. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

Wooden Spoon Society Grant (UK)

Schools, charities and community organisations can apply for grants for projects that improve the quality and prospect of life for children and young people who are disadvantaged physically, mentally or socially including those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The grants available include capital projects such as medical treatment and recovery centres, sports and activity areas, sensory rooms and gardens, playgrounds and hydrotherapy pools as well as revenue grants to support outreach programmes for children in their communities. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

John Ellerman Foundation - Environment: People and Planet (UK)

Grants to charities that work to promote a healthier environment for both people and nature. The scheme prioritises projects that enhance ocean health through stronger marine protected areas and on land and in freshwater through sustainable management, habitat restoration, and landscape-scale conservation. The scheme also aims to address the impact of human activities like climate change and pollution on air, land, and water. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

Biffa Award Main Grants Scheme (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

Under this scheme, Biffa look to award grants to projects that provide or improve biodiversity, community spaces, cultural facilities, and places for outdoor recreation. The type of activities that could be funded could be to improve community buildings; site-based projects to protect and enhance a species or habitat; improving an open space such as a park, play area or woodland that needs transforming to benefit local people of all ages. Between £10,000 and £75,000 is available for projects of less than £200,000. Ten percent of the award needs to be third party sourced.

Applications can be submitted at any time

Swire Charitable Trust (UK)

The Swire Charitable Trust makes grants to charities supporting some of the UK's most vulnerable people to overcome barriers and realise their potential, and to charities who are protecting the environment and heritage. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

HS2 Community and Environment Fund (England)

The HS2 Community and Environment Fund (CEF) has been established to offset the disruption caused to local communities throughout the construction phase of HS2. The aim of the CEF is to award grants of up to £75,000 to projects that will benefit communities along the route. Supported projects could include, for example: Pedestrian, equestrian or cycle access; landscape and nature conservation / enhancement; enhancement / replacement of sports and recreational facilities; refurbishment / re-use of historic buildings and monuments. Capital and revenue costs can be funded. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

The Masonic Charitable Foundation - SEN and Disabilities (England & Wales)

Small grants of between £1,000 and £5,000, and Large grants of between £10,000 and £60,000 for charities who are working to improve the wellbeing and independence of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and to ensure their parents/carers have the resources and support they need. Services and interventions may include: practical/life skills; supportive education, volunteering and work opportunities; assistive technology etc. Applicants are invited to submit an EOI, and if successful, will be invited to complete a full application. **Can be submitted at any time.**

International Tree Foundation - UK Community Tree Planting Programme (UK)

The International Tree Foundation was founded in Kenya in 1924 as 'Watu wa Miti' (People of the Trees). ITF's mission is to plant, protect and promote trees in partnership with local communities. The UK Community Tree Planting Programme aims to support community projects that will: Create and conserve indigenous trees and woodlands, forests, habitats and associated biodiversity; Foster community engagement in tree planting to promote reforestation and to increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being; Encourage social cohesion and inclusion. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

The Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance grant (England, Scotland & Wales)

The Trust is an independent grant-making charity that supports general, environmental and wildlife charities. Through the Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance grant programme the charity provides grants of between £1,000 and £2,000 to support the conservation and maintenance for the benefit of the public of the natural environment and its indigenous woodland flora and fauna with particular reference to the conservation and maintenance of the character and amenity of rural areas.

Applications can be submitted at any time

CLA Funding for Projects to Help Disabled and Disadvantaged People Connect with Nature and Teach Children about the Countryside

Charities, Schools, PTAs and other not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects that help disabled or disadvantaged children connect with nature and the countryside. The funding, which is made available through the CLA Charitable Trust, supports projects that improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people who are disabled or disadvantaged by helping them to visit and participate in recreational and educational opportunities in the countryside. **Priority is given to projects that focus on children and young people, disadvantaged financially, physically, mentally, or from areas of deprivation.**

Funding can be used to support projects, capital works and running costs. School projects supported in the past include funding for outdoor classrooms, forest school provisions, horticulture areas within school grounds.

National Lottery Heritage Grants

Guidance and application forms to apply for a **National Lottery Heritage Grant** under their new **10-year strategy, Heritage 2033** have now launched on their website.

NLHF fund projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. Organisations can apply at any time for grants £10,000 - £250,000. To get feedback and advice before starting an application, applicants can submit a **Project Enquiry**. Organisations can also apply for grants £250,000 - £10million, but must first submit an **Expression of Interest** and, if successful, will be invited to apply.

4 **investment principles** guide all grant decision making and must take all four principles into account in an application. The emphasis on each principle is for them to decide and demonstrate.

The Investment Principles are:

- saving heritage
- protecting the environment
- inclusion, access and participation
- organisational sustainability

National Lottery Grant Schemes

The National Lottery has two regular community grant schemes which are ongoing (**no firm deadline**).

- **Awards for All**: Offers grants between £300 and £20,000 for up to 2 years.
- **Reaching Communities**: Offer grants from £20,001 for up to 5 years.

Both programmes fund projects or organisations that will do at least one of these things:

- bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities.
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities.
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.