

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.*
 - *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](#)

The Cole Charitable Trust

(Birmingham City, Coventry City, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton)

They support charities that work in the fields of:

- social welfare, all age groups
- housing/homelessness
- community and environmental development
- opportunities for young people
- promotion of improved quality of life
- personal or community empowerment.

Will fund running/core costs including equipment. £500 - £1,200. Applications ongoing basis. **Requests are considered twice a year, in April/May, and October/November.**

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

Kingshurst Community Fund (Solihull)

The Kingshurst Community Fund is a grant programme for projects in Solihull that support children, young people and families and aim to strengthen the local community by implementing activities that bring the people in Kingshurst together.

There are grants of up to £300 available for projects that support:

- One off community activity e.g., community picnics
- Activities that bring the community closer together
- Community arts projects
- Children and young people
- Inclusion and diversity
- Community cohesion
- Health & wellbeing

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.

Torrington Fund (Coventry and Warwickshire)

The Torrington Fund was created to support people living with physical / learning disabilities to lead full and active lives.

With grants of up to £2,000, the fund will support charities, constituted voluntary and community groups that focus on supporting people living with learning disabilities to achieve the following:

- To learn skills to help them live more independent lives
- Participate in a wide range of social activities
- Activities which help them to stay active
- Activities which enable families / carers to have a break

Natural Networks Programme (Worcestershire)

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, Telford & Wrekin)

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!

Staffordshire Community Foundation - The J&O Lloyd Community Grants Fund (East Staffordshire)

The Staffordshire 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 J&O Lloyd Community Grants Fund the foundation provides grants of up to £10,000 to organisations who provide benefit to a community within the East Staffordshire borough. Preference will be given to applications working in one of the following fields; Heritage; Arts & Leisure; Built & Natural Environment; Social & Community Isolation. The closing date for applications is **8th October 2024**.

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**

Severn Trent Community Fund (East Midlands, West Midlands, South West)

Voluntary or community organisations in the Severn Trent Water region are eligible to apply to the £10 million Severn Trent Community Fund for funding to increase community wellbeing. This includes support for projects that help people to lead a healthier life and gain new skills; help to create better places to live in and use; and Projects that will help look after the natural environment, give people greater access to that environment or help look after water. The closing date for applications is **13th October 2024**.

UK/England wide:

Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Grant (UK)

Providing grants of up to £5,000 to promote horticulture; the conservation of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity; the creation, development, preservation and maintenance of gardens (preference will normally, but not exclusively, be given to gardens accessible to the public); and the advancement of horticultural education. The type of activities funded include restoring gardens of historic interest; developing new gardens for public access and enjoyment; and gardeners' training schemes run by appropriate organisations; etc. **The closing date for applications is 15th February 2025.**

Veolia Environmental Trust Grants (UK)

Constituted, not-for-profit groups within the vicinity of a qualifying Veolia site, can apply for grants for projects that support the natural, social and built environment. The type of activities that can be supported include Community buildings and rooms: such as community centres, village halls, community spaces within religious buildings, Scout/Guide buildings; Outdoor Spaces: e.g. public parks, nature reserves, community gardens, footpaths, or cycle-paths; Play and recreation: e.g. play areas, skate-parks, sports facilities. The maximum grant is £75,000 for projects with a total cost of under £250,000. **The closing date for applications is 3rd October 2024.**

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

The Tree Council is inviting applications through the Branching Out fund. Through the Fund, 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.**

The Stobart Group Sustainability Fund (UK)

As part of its long-term commitment to sustainability, the Stobart Group has launched a new fund to support community-led environmental and sustainability projects across the UK. The Stobart Sustainability Fund will support 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**, and the application form is available on their website

The Cruach Trust (UK)

The Cruach Trust is a small Scottish charity that aims to make a difference with its donations. Although the Trust has a preference for supporting gardeners, retired gardeners and for preserving gardens throughout the United Kingdom, donations can be made to a wide range of organisations with charitable objectives in the UK and abroad. 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 13th September 2024.**

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

The Newby Trust (UK)

Social Welfare Grant

The Newby Trust funds local, regional or national charities registered and operating in the UK within the broad categories of education, health and social welfare. Through the Social Welfare programme the Trust provides grants of up to £10,000 to improve people's quality of life in disadvantaged communities.

Health Grants

Through the Health programme the Trust provides grants of up to £10,000 to maintain and improve the mental health of children and young people; support the mental and physical health of older people; and fund medical research.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

The Garfield Weston Foundation (UK)

Projects/Specific Activity Grant programme the foundation provides funding for a specific project or area of the applicant organisations work. It will have a defined scope of work and timetable. Grants vary depending on the total cost and scope of the project however grants tend to be 10–20% of the total project cost.

Operating/Core Costs Grants the foundation provides funding towards the general costs of running an organisation. This means they can be used to help pay the organisations bills or rent and provide support towards salaries. As a general rule, the foundation are unlikely to fund more than 10% of the organisations total annual budget.

Capital Projects Grants the foundation provides funding of no more than 10% of a total project cost. However, for local community projects (e.g. village halls, community centres, places of worship, etc.), grants are unlikely to be over £30,000 regardless of the project size.

The Foundation fund organisations working in the following areas: Arts, Community, Education, Environment, Faith, Health, Museums and Heritage, Welfare, Youth.

Applications can be made at any time.

Screwfix Foundation (UK)

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to local charities and not-for-profit organisations for projects that will fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need in the UK. The funding is being made available through the Screwfix Foundations, and the grants are available for all kinds of projects, from repairing buildings and improving facilities in deprived areas to decorating the homes of people living with sickness and disabilities. Applications are reviewed every quarter. **The next closing date for applications is the 10th November 2024.**

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.**

Schroder Charity Trust (UK)

Independent grant-making Family Trust that has been supporting the charitable and voluntary sector for over 70 years. The Trust makes grants in the areas of Arts, Culture and heritage; Environment and Conservation; Strengthening Communities; Education, Training and Employment; Health and Wellbeing. **Applications any time.**

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. Through the small grants programme the foundation 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. Examples of the kind of projects that can be funded include: 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 Albert Hunt Trust is a grant giving charitable trust that supports local charities throughout the United Kingdom. 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.**

The Allen Lane Foundation (UK)

The overall aims of the Foundation are to make a lasting difference to people's lives; reduce isolation, stigma and discrimination; and to encourage or enable unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community. 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)

The John Ellerman Foundation's People and Planet funding scheme provides 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.**

Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust (England)

The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable trust is a grant giving organisation that makes grants of between £1,000 and £3,000 to charities to fund specific items or support projects primarily within Cheshire and Hertfordshire. Projects supported by the trust include: programmes that benefit the Armed Forces and Ex-Servicemen and women; sport and Recreational Facilities for young people, the welfare, protection and preservation of Domestic Animal Life; natural history and wildlife; and other charities associated with the counties of Cheshire and Hertfordshire. The Trustees generally meet twice in each year to approve grants. **The closing date for applications is 31st December 2024.**

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.**

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 Dulverton Trust - Conservation Grant (UK)

The Dulverton Trust is an independent grant-making charity that supports UK charities and Charitable incorporated Organisations tackling a range of social issues, protecting the natural world, and preserving heritage crafts. Through its Conservation funding strand, the Trust supports a small number of charities working to support the general conservation and preservation of wildlife habitats in the UK; protect, plant, and sympathetically manage trees and native woodlands; and protect coastal and marine environments. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust - Grants for the Environment (UK)

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust was established in for the advancement of the arts, health and medical welfare and environmental protection or improvement. Through the Environment programme the Trust aims to protect the countryside, species and habitats as well as well as the UKs heritage and rural crafts and skills. The closing date for applications is **24th September 2024.**

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

Through the Charity Grants Programme, the Foundation awards 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 (ITF) was founded in Kenya in 1924 as 'Watu wa Miti' (People of the Trees), by Richard St Barbe Baker and 50 volunteers. 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.**

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.**

Funding for Rural Community and Education Projects (UK)

Charities supporting rural development, particularly the education of young people and the relief of poverty within rural areas, can apply for funding through the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust. The funding focuses on providing financial support to larger initiatives that would significantly impact rural communities. Grants available are for £1,000 - 50,000. Larger grants are used to support organisations that significantly impact rural communities at a national level. Projects supported in the past have ranged from City farms, Federations of Young Farmers Clubs and farming Community Networks. **The next closing date for applications is the 4th October 2024.**

Grants of up to £150,000 Available to Protect Water and Land Environments (UK)

UK charities and non-profit organisations working to protect, restore, or sustainably manage the natural world are eligible to apply for grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 per year, for up to three years from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's People and Planet funding scheme. Launched to promote a healthier environment for both people and nature, the scheme prioritises projects that enhance ocean health through stronger marine protected areas, community engagement, and reduced overfishing; build healthier ecosystems on land and in freshwater through sustainable management, habitat restoration, and landscape-scale conservation; and address the impact of human activities like climate change and pollution on air, land, and water. **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.**

Tesco Stronger Starts Programme

For projects and activities that give children across the UK a stronger start in life. Priority given to projects that provide food and support to young people. Every 3 months, three local good causes/ projects are selected to be in the blue token customer vote in Tesco stores throughout the UK. Grants awarded depending on number of votes. Examples:

- A school wanting to buy equipment for outdoor or indoor activities.
- A school wanting to develop a food growing area.
- A healthy eating project that supports families to cook healthy meals on a budget.

Applications can be made 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.

Bernard Sunley Foundation Funding for Projects that Raise People's Quality of Life

Grants available to charities, specialist schools, CIOs, and other not-for-profit organisations including scout and guide groups, and housing associations, which are working to raise the quality of life for people in England and Wales. The Foundation aims to provide greater opportunities for the young, elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged by supporting capital projects in the areas of:

- Community
- Education
- Health
- Social welfare

There are large grants of £20,000 and above; medium grants of up to £20,000 and small grants of £5,000 and under. **Applications can be made at any time.**

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.