

Grants That Work

Stories from the Freemasons Derbyshire Fund

2015



Foundation
Derbyshire

Making a Difference that Lasts

The Freemasons Derbyshire Fund has continued to grow over the last year thanks to an additional £90k of donations and match funding. The fund attracts interest and applications from a variety of groups all seeking support with vital pieces of equipment, equipment that makes an immediate difference and a difference that will last

“Local investment in small groups is vital, we have a grasp of local dynamics, geography and personalities that larger regional and national charities just simply wouldn’t have. Yet we find it harder to compete for funding from funders who are mainly national in outlook. We may not involve large numbers of people, we may not be tackling the ‘issue of the moment’ in terms of government agendas but we are still significant locally.”

- Awarded group

SPECIAL FRIENDS

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND CARERS WHOSE CHILDREN
HAVE ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

AWARDED £919

“Well, Special Friends owe a HUGE thank you to Foundation Derbyshire for their wonderful help in obtaining funding for our very special group. Thanks to them, we have been awarded funds by the Freemasons

Their generous support will enable us to purchase specialist toys (which should be with us ready for our next playgroup), and to hold events for all the family, ensuring that Dads, partners and siblings are supported too, something that often gets overlooked.

The funding you have helped us to secure means everything to our group and the families that we support. We are run by parents with crazy lives and very little time so the help with applications and the proactive approach you have to sourcing suitable funds is invaluable to us.”



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Foundation Derbyshire awarded 227 grants in 2014/15

36% of those groups had never applied to a funder before

"This was my 1st application for a grant & you it made it very easy for me. Thank you!"

- Anon Survey 2014/15

Derbyshire Scout Bike Team

Awarded £700

"Thank you for the grant, a dedicated team of volunteers run the bike team and your support has been essential to help us purchase equipment. Equipment that will enable us to continue offering biking skills, coaching and rides to the Scout and Guiding communities across Derbyshire.

Its amazing what can be achieved when like minded people get together and how many young people they can encourage, influence and raise up." - Group Treasurer

"The new gloves are great as they replace the worn out old ones and the colour coded sizing makes fitting easy" - Ed, 18, assistant coach

"I LOVE the cool yellow gloves, they are really bright" - Miles, 8, cub scout

"The new bottle cages are brilliant. My bottle kept falling out of the old ones" - Chris, 16, Explorer Scout

Another positive aspect of receiving a grant is the encouragement and validation it gives to those countless volunteers who run community services - a sense of pride, engagement and ownership

- New Mills Community Festival





GLOSSOP & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER BUREAU

Community Companions Project—Awarded £999

Community Companions brings together a volunteer car scheme, a daily escorted shopping service plus a befriending arm. Its aim is to enable older people to feel in control of their lives and maintain their independence as far as possible.

Working across a rural area with many socio-economic problems, a service such as 'Community Companions' is a real lifeline in preserving the independence of isolated elderly residents. Many of their 800 clients experience loneliness, reduced mobility or low confidence and this simple, practical scheme makes day to day life more bearable. All live within the town of Glossop or surrounding villages.

"Please pass our thanks on to your drivers for looking after us, when I phoned we were in dire straits. You came to our aid then and your assistance continued. We don't know what we would have done without you because taxis and buses in our condition would have been a nightmare". - Car Scheme Client

"Joy' lives in a shared house with St Christopher's Trust. The aim was for Joy to become more socially active and regain her self-confidence. Working with the volunteers Joy can now do some shopping on her own and socialise with other people .She is now a popular member of the Thursday group."

The Freemasons grant allowed the Community Companions scheme to purchase magnetic car signs and fleeces for their fantastic team of 52 local volunteers The idea was to:

- Raise awareness within the community and giving a better professional image
- Provide clear identification and reassurance to those using the services
- Gives volunteers better resources to undertake their roles – a sense of being valued in the roles

This grant has made a tremendous difference, very quickly... in the words of the manager it has been "Invaluable"

New and existing clients can be wary of strangers and the branded cars do ease their anxiety. The drivers have also appreciated the additional recognition they receive when parking at the hospitals. They have found that they no longer experience being challenged by hospital staff or parking wardens regarding parking in the 'wrong' bays or area. Drivers also tell us that when they are parked up, people now stop them and ask them what they do so they have been able to spread the word – we've even given them leaflets to keep in the car so now our service is getting so much more notice!

"It's made me feel really proud of belonging to Community Companions" – Pam volunteer driver

"The signs look impressive. Easy to recognise you now and spot the car when you arrive" – Mary a client

87% of users felt that their ability to cope and manage daily tasks had improved

95% felt more confident

88% felt more involved in their community

93% of those who use the service are over 65.



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THE GRANTS 2014/15

Freemasons Grant Recipients, New Mills Community Festival pictured above collecting Foundation Derbyshire 2015 Award

Awarded October 2014

High Peak Women's Aid £1,071; Shirebrook Bowls Club £675; Biggin Community Project £1,000; Life You Choose £1,000; Laura Centre £1,000

Awarded March 2015

Clowne Cricket Club £495; Derbyshire Scout Bike Team £700; Special Friends £919; Derwent Rowing Club £1,000; Our Vision Our Future £975