**Funding and Support for Community Libraries**

**B&NES Funding Journal**

Every month the Council the updates a Funding Journal, which contains over 500 pages of local and national funding opportunities. It is generally posted at the start of each month on the Council’s website here (it’s the pdf on the bottom right hand side):

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/community-grants-and-funding/funding-bulletins>

There is also a link to this funding page from the home page of the Council’s website.

As well as funding opportunities, the Funding Journal also contains advice, information and training that is likely to be of interest to local voluntary and community groups.

**Hints and Tips on Applying for Funding**

**What do you need funding for?**

It is important to be clear on what you need funding for and apply accordingly. It can often be difficult to get funding for what are known as core costs (ie overhead or running costs) but more opportunities are starting to become available.

**But we’re not a charity…**

This is not always a problem as many sources of funding are open to organisations that are constituted and have a bank account with two signatories. Some trusts will only fund registered charities but many funding providers are becoming more flexible. Some may refer to ‘charitable organisations’ being eligible but this may not necessarily mean registered charities. If in doubt, contact the funder to ask.

**Size matters**

The larger the minimum amount funding on offer from a provider, the more work you are likely to need to put into your application so, if you only need smaller grants, go for smaller funding ‘pots’ (which are generally under £10k).

**Shop Local!**

The local funding on offer is often a good first port of call and some are detailed below. If you live in a parished area, then your local Town or Parish Council may have a community grants programme, so do check with them.

**Match Funding**

Some providers will expect you to match the funding they offer but many will accept volunteer time in lieu of cash. Therefore, it is a good idea to record the hours volunteers spend supporting the library. This can include the time that management committees spend meeting and preparing for meetings as well as time actually spent in the premises.

**Most important of all!**

Criteria! You must consider the funding providers’ criteria and make sure you meet it. You may be applying to different funders for the same need but your applications should be tailored to the specific criteria of each.

Do read any guidance notes provided and make sure you are eligible for the fund before spending time applying. The main reason for funders turning down applications is because the applicant did not read the guidance.

You will often see that funders are looking to support those that are ‘disadvantaged’. This does not always relate to affluence. People can be deprived due to limited mobility, age, geographic location (eg lack of transport or limited transport choices), culture etc.

**Keep it simple.**

There is generally no need to write lengthy applications for funding. Simple but informative answers to questions on application forms will help those assessing them to quickly find the information they need and ensure you are meeting the criteria.

**Funding Opportunities**

This is by no means an exhaustive list but hopefully, a useful starting point. See the Funding Journal and/or visit the websites for further detail on these funds.

**Local Funding**

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| Express Grant | Quartet Community Fund | <http://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/express/> | To be eligible for a grant from the Express Grant Programme the work/activity must benefit people who are disadvantaged. The beneficiaries may be disadvantaged due to poverty, disability, age, location or culture. The work/activity should reflect the concerns and priorities of the target beneficiaries and fit well with existing community services/activities. Express Grants are targeted at small organisations with charitable aims where a small amount of money can make a significant difference. Applicant organisations can be awarded up to a maximum of £5,000 in any 12 month period. | Ongoing |
| Grants | The Medlock Charitable Trust | <https://sitec.staging.volcanic.uk/charitable-trust> | The Medlock Charitable Trust is a Bath based Trust that offers grants to charitable organisations active in the UK. Its objectives are:-   * to make donations to other registered charitable trusts * to make donations to universities or other establishments for educational purposes * to make donations to local community charities in any part of the country. | Ongoing |
| Funding for Bath organisations | The Bath Boules Charity | <https://www.bathboules.com/charity/> | A Bath based charity seeking to help Bath people – in particular, though not exclusively, the elderly, the young, the disabled and the underprivileged. They seek projects where their funding can make a difference, rather than providing monies towards general running costs. | Ongoing |
| Community Energy Grant | Bath & West Community Energy via Quartet Community Foundation | <https://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/bath-west-community-energy-2/> | This fund welcomes applications from groups for local community projects in Bath and surrounding areas that reduce carbon emissions and/ or tackle fuel poverty. Carbon reduction does not just relate to energy projects; it might also include local food, sustainable transport or waste reduction or indeed any activity that reduces carbon emissions. | November annually |
| St John’s Foundation Organisation Funding Programme 2019 | St John’s Foundation | <https://www.stjohnsbath.org.uk/funding-support/> | St John’s Organisation Funding Programme provides financial assistance and practical support to registered charities, excepted charities and Community Interest Companies across Bath and North East Somerset. Funding is awarded through their Project, Pilot, Development and Core Funding programmes.  St John’s encourage applications from organisations with a focus on helping people to achieve their aspirations and potential and who are helping build resilience within communities. | 2019 Deadlines:  25th January  18th April  16th August  28th October |
| Business support | Green Bird Café, Margaret’s Buildings, Bath | <https://www.greenbirdcafe.co.uk/> | Each month, The Green Bird Café selects a local charity or good case to receive 10% of their soup sales. To find out more contact: [claire@greenbird.co.uk](mailto:claire@greenbird.co.uk) | Ongoing |

There are also various ‘token’ schemes in local supermarkets (eg Waitrose, Sainsbury’s, Tesco) which can be useful for generating small amounts of cash.

**National Funding**

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| Awards for all England | National Lottery Community Fund | <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england> | Grants of between £300 and £10,000 for projects which will benefit the community.  In 2017, the fund simplified the Awards for All guidance notes, including fewer restrictions and new priorities. To be eligible for funding projects must now meet at least one of the following three priorities:   * Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities * Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities * Enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.   Priority may be given to applications from smaller organisations. Applications may be made at any time, with decisions made within a maximum time frame of 16 weeks. | Ongoing |
| Village Hall Improvements Fund | ACRE | <http://acre.org.uk/our-work/village-hall-improvement-grant%20fund> | This fund recognises the important role that village halls play in underpinning local community life, enabling activities to prevent loneliness among people living in rural areas and to create stronger communities. Raising funds for major repairs and improvements is a challenge for trustees of village halls and that the 20% VAT payable on such work can be a significant sum which, in most cases, cannot be recovered, in contrast to halls run by parish and town councils, which can recover VAT. The aim of this grant funding is the updating and refurbishment of village halls so that they are fit for purpose and provide activities which seek to achieve one or more of the following outcomes for their communities:   * Improved health and wellbeing/reduction in loneliness * Demonstrates a positive impact on the environment * Supports the local rural economy   The scheme will fund up to 20% of eligible costs, with a minimum grant of £10,000 and a maximum grant of £75,000 payable. This means overall scheme costs would be between £50,000 and £375,000. Eligible projects must be located in towns or villages of under 10,000 population. Applicants should have a freehold or leasehold interest in the hall in place. If there is a lease in place there must be at least 21 years left to run on the lease. | 31st March 2020 |
| W H Smith Community Grants | W H Smith | <http://www.whsmithplc.co.uk/corporate_responsibility/whsmith_trust/>  Tel: 01793 562824  Email: [communitygrants@whsmith.co.uk](mailto:communitygrants@whsmith.co.uk) | The scheme offers grants of up to **£500** to voluntary organisations and schools from the proceeds of the compulsory carrier bag levies across the UK. Grants are awarded every six months. | Annual deadlines of  31st March and 30th Sept |
| Grants for charitable purposes | The February Foundation | <http://www.thefebruaryfoundation.org/> | Grants up to £5,000 to charities for both capital projects and core costs. They are particularly interested in supporting UK registered charities working with the following beneficiary groups:  A match funding contribution is welcomed.  Do check their website as while their objectives are broad, there are quite a few exemptions. | Ongoing |
| Funding for core costs | Christie Foundation | No website. Contact details on the Charity Commission website:  <http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1151063&subid=0> | A grant-making charity that will support charities and charitable organisations that are experiencing difficulty raising funds, by supporting core costs and operating expenses.  Applications may be made at any time in writing. | Ongoing |
| Grants to the visually impaired | Ulverscroft Foundation | <http://foundation.ulverscroft.com/index.html> | Funding to support projects which will have a positive effect on the quality of life of visually impaired people (blind and partially sighted) or people with a print disability  Applications for funding can be considered from any source, UK or overseas. Applicants need not necessarily be a charity: they can be a CIC or social group which help visually impaired people, for example, libraries, hospitals, clinics, schools and colleges; social and welfare organisations. | Ongoing |
| Community Energy Grant | Bath & West Community Energy via Quartet Community Foundation | <https://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/bath-west-community-energy-2/> | This fund welcomes applications from groups for local community projects in Bath and surrounding areas that reduce carbon emissions and/ or tackle fuel poverty. Carbon reduction does not just relate to energy projects; it might also include local food, sustainable transport or waste reduction or indeed any activity that reduces carbon emissions. | November annually |
| Calor Rural Community Fund | Calor | <https://www.calor.co.uk/communityfund/> | Funding available for rural, off-grid community projects that improve local life. Projects supported are anything from community centres, village halls and sporting venues to youth clubs and scout groups, or even initiatives to support the elderly.  Projects that have successful applications will be published on the Calor website for people to vote on. | Usually May - see website |
| Grants for rural issues and urban deprivation | Trusthouse Charitable Foundation | <http://trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/> | Following a review of its grants strategy, the Foundation has replaced its former grants programmes with two new funding priorities offering grants up to £60,000 to smaller charities and not-for-profits for (1) Rural Issues and (2) Urban Deprivation.  Funding is available for general costs including core costs, salaries, projects costs, capital expenditure on buildings and essential equipment. | Ongoing |
| Various Grants | Garfield Weston Foundation | <https://garfieldweston.org/> | This Foundation supports a wide range of causes and charities and grants vary according to the size of the charity and the work being undertaken. Grants are currently available in the following categories:  Arts; Community; Education; Environment; Faith; Health; Museums and Heritage; Welfare; Youth | See website |
| People’s Postcode Lottery | Postcode Trust  Postcode Local Trust  Post Code Community Trust | [www.postcodetrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk)  [www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk)  [www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk) | Grants of between £500 and £20,000.  Funding is available through three trusts which focus on different areas.  **People’s Postcode Trust**: supports projects aimed at promoting human rights, employability and combatting poverty  **Postcode Community Trust**: focuses on initiatives that benefit communities through the delivery of grass-roots health and wellbeing programmes  **Postcode Local Trust**: looks for applications that aim to improve biodiversity and outdoor spaces. | See website for availability |
| Power to Change – Community Business Bright Ideas Fund | Locality | <https://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/bright-ideas-fund/> | Grants up to £15,000 for organisations in England that require funding to develop a community business idea.  Power to Change’s Community Business Bright Ideas Fund is designed to help community groups set up a new community business and carry out the necessary consultations with local people and feasibility studies to develop a community business idea the community wants and needs. | 9th April 2019.  There will be further funding rounds (see text for details) |
| Energising Communities Fund | E.ON | <https://www.eonenergy.com/About-eon/Community/energising-communities-fund> | Funding for local community centres, schools and charities that need to improve their energy efficiency and/or improve energy education can apply for grants up to £2,000. | See website. 2018 deadline was 29th January |
| The M&S Energy Community Energy Fund | Marks and Spencer | <https://www.mandsenergyfund.com/> | Are you a not-for-profit project that wants to use renewable energy to provide community benefits? Whether you’re a community energy group, a sports club or simply an organisation that wants to have a positive impact on the environment, this is for you. | See website. Usually early July annually. |
| The Energy Redress Scheme | Via Ofgem | <https://energyredress.org.uk/apply-funding> | The Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules. The funds can pay for anything from making a home more energy efficient, to providing advice that helps consumers keep on top of their bills.  The Energy Saving Trust has developed an open application process for charities seeking funding from the scheme. Successful projects will be selected with input from an independent panel of experts and could cover a range of locations across England, Scotland and Wales. | Quarterly – register for details. |

**Funding for Activities and Events**

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| Older Person’s Grant | Quartet Community Foundation | <http://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/older-people/> | Grants up to £5,000 for small, local voluntary and community organisations where a small amount of money can make a significant difference. Applications from groups that are making a positive difference to older people’s lives are encouraged.  Applicant groups must be based and working in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire. | Ongoing at present |
| Grants for South West projects – music, children and young people’s welfare, arts | The Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust | <http://www.joycefletchercharitabletrust.co.uk/application-details.html> | Grants of between £500 and £2,000 (occasionally up to £5,000) to support projects in South West England with the following themes:   * Music in a social or therapeutic context * Music and special needs * Children and young people’s welfare * Arts activities | Annual deadline of 1st November applications by **September** preferred. |
| British Science Week Community Grants and Kick Start Schools Grants | British Science Association | <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/>  <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/about-us/grants/kick-start-grant-scheme/> | Grants of between £500 and £1,000 from the British Science Association to support community groups running a science event during British Science Week. No prior science experience is required! | See website |
| Money Matters | Wessex Water via Quartet | <https://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/wessex-water-money-matters/> | Wessex Water believes in helping people to understand financial matters and take effective decisions regarding money. Wessex Water is working with Quartet Community Foundation to administer Wessex Water Money Matters grants for activities that support financial capability and money management projects for people who face financial difficulties. | See website |
| Community and Gardening Grants | Curo | <https://www.curo-group.co.uk/residents/get-involved/curo-grants/> | Got a great idea for your neighbourhood? Do you want to organise a family fun day, or need a piece of equipment for your community group? Would you like to create a community garden for you and your neighbours to enjoy? Curo offers up to £500 of funding for projects that benefit Curo customers through two main grants:  Curo Communities Grant if you need funding to make something happen in your neighbourhood.  Growing Communities Gardening Grant if you'd like some funds to add a touch of sparkle to an outdoor space | Decisions made 5 times per year:  2018 Deadlines:  10th May  9th July  10th Sept  12th Nov  11th Mar 2019 |
| Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants | Arts Council and National Lottery | <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants> | A new fund intended to support development by allowing artists, cultural practitioners and organisations to work in new ways and to get their work out to new audiences. Individuals and organisations may apply for a grant of between £1,000 and £100,000. Grants can support projects lasting up to a maximum of 3 years.  There is a match funding requirement for this programme with a contribution of at least 10% required from sources other than the Arts Council. | Ongoing |
| Grants for Individuals engaged in any aspect of crafts, design, the arts or in social care and welfare within the UK, particularly in the South West and South Wales | The Gane Trust | <http://www.ganetrust.org.uk/apply> | This Trust supports individuals with small grants for:   * Art, craft and design activities (for example, materials, publicity, tools or books); and/or * Social welfare and care activities (for example, costs incurred in education or training)   Grants up to £500 are available. There is no stipulated requirement for match funding. | Spring, Summer and early Autumn annually |
| Grants for Summer Play Schemes | The Hilden Charitable Fund | <http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/summer%20playcheme%20guidelines.htm> | Grants up to £1,500 for UK voluntary and community groups to help run summer play schemes for the benefit of disadvantaged children aged 5 -18.  Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are available to voluntary and community groups in the UK with an income of less than £150,000. | See website. Deadline usually end of May/beginning of June |
| The Children’s Health Fund | Sustain | <http://www.childrenshealthfund.org.uk/grants/> | The aim of the Children’s Health Fund is to support programmes and schemes designed to improve children’s health and food education. Funds are distributed in two themed funding rounds each year.  Funding is available for projects that provide good food for young people as part of holiday learning, play and activity programmes. | Twice a year – see website |

**Other Support and Advice**

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| Bath Fundraisers Group | The Bath Fundraisers’ Group meets every few months to bring together fundraisers based in and around Bath to network, share experiences and hear from speakers about relevant issues and case studies. The group includes professionals and volunteers, from large charities to small community based organisations.    The group is open to all those involved in fundraising in and around Bath and if you want to attend or sign up to receive updates from the group, you can contact them via the link. | <http://eepurl.com/cPTzzX> |
| Help with finding volunteers in Bath and North East Somerset – Community Volunteer Service | The Community Volunteer Service promotes volunteering opportunities and identifies suitable candidates for local charities and community organisations; helping people from all walks of life to make a difference to their lives and the lives of others.  So if you are an individual or a business interested in volunteering, or a local organisation looking for volunteers, contact Mike Plows:  T: 01225 338105  E: [bathnes.volunteerservices@virgincare.co.uk](mailto:bathnes.volunteerservices@virgincare.co.uk) | <https://bathneshealthandcare.nhs.uk/wellness/community-volunteer-services/> |
| Interagency Network | There are a number of Interagency Network meetings organised across the district to provide service providers an opportunity to share information, learn about other programmes and activities taking place and improve partnership working. Some of the meetings are organised by Bath & North East Somerset Council and others are organised by partner organisations. The meetings are very informal and are open to anyone working in the area.  To support these network meetings is a monthly bulletin sharing information about events, update on news, training, funding and much more. You can sign up to receive these directly here and unsubscribe at any time:  <https://bathnes.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=aaac7864bba59ea322ceb662d&id=ac4365a3e8> | <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/working-partnership/interagency-meetings> |
| B&NES Community Challenges | B&NES Community Challenges are mainly offered as a whole day activity to B&NES staff, councillors and other organisations to help make a difference to a community project. In previous years this has included painting a play area or community space or helping with community meal as examples. The Community Challenges are organised in partnership with Virgin's Community Volunteer Service and involve other organisations and local businesses who take part.  To be eligible projects must:   * benefit a community / charitable organisation not an individual. * the work of the organisation must benefit residents of Bath and North East Somerset. * provide evidence of public liability insurance and risk assessments. * supply equipment, materials and the necessary tools to carry out the tasks.   If you have a project that you would like to be considered for our Community Challenges, please contact: Sara Dixon, email: sara\_dixon@bathnes.gov.uk or tel: 01225 396594. | <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/volunteering/council-volunteers/employee-community> |