



## MILLS & REEVE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY FUND NEWSLETTER

### ABOUT THE FUND

Set up in December 2008, the Mills & Reeve Cambridge Community Fund makes small grants to support small, local voluntary and community groups and organisations that are undertaking charitable work in Cambridgeshire.

The panel met in July 2014 to consider a number of applications—details of grants awarded are below. To date, the Fund has awarded over £11,000 to 14 projects in Cambridgeshire and over £55,000 is endowed to provide future funding.

### FUND CRITERIA

Grants are given to projects helping people who face disadvantage and to projects that engage and support local people, and therefore build stronger, healthier, more inclusive and sustainable communities.

The fund focuses around five core themes...children, young people and families; adults facing a life crisis; the natural environment; community development and engagement; and health.

## JULY PANEL 2014—GRANTS AWARDED

**GROUNDWORK HERTFORDSHIRE, BEDFORDSHIRE & CAMBRIDGESHIRE** were awarded a grant of £694 to enable elderly residents at the Woolpack Yard Sheltered Housing Scheme in Ely to do gardening. Although the site gardens are maintained to a certain degree by a contractor, a keen group of residents would like to enhance the appearance of the gardens by doing some additional gardening work themselves. However, because of their restricted mobility, they need a large raised bed and some paved and gravelled areas where patio pots can be sited.

**CAMTRUST** were offered £1,000 towards marketing and running costs of a day placement scheme for adults with learning disabilities. CAMTRUST runs courses which provide skills for employability such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology), numeracy & literacy, communication skills, CV writing and interview techniques. With the addition of a contribution from another Fund, managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, a total grant of £2,000 has been awarded.

**CAMBRIDGE & ELY CHILD CONTACT CENTRES** were awarded a grant of £1,200 towards running costs of the centres in Cambridge and Ely. The centres provide safe, friendly, neutral meeting places where children from separated families can enjoy contact with a non-resident parent or other family member in an atmosphere that helps to build trust and confidence. The Mills & Reeve Community Fund awarded a grant to the Centres in 2011 to help fund the co-ordinator's salary.

*"We had a family where the mother of the child, after several visits, hinted that she wouldn't mind the husband returning to the marital home but was advised by Social Services not to let this happen. The co-ordinator talked to both sides and found this feeling mutual. She suggested that if both felt like that then it was their decision and their life and she recommended that they should reunite. The child was delighted. Happy to relate that the couple are still together and the little girl now has a definite skip in her step."*

## FEEDBACK

In December 2013, two grants were awarded, totalling £1,200.

**THE PETERBOROUGH & FENLAND RETHINK CARERS GROUP** received a grant of £200 towards running costs. This group will provide feedback on the work they have been doing throughout the year later in 2014.

**YOU CAN BIKE TOO** received a grant of £1,000 towards running costs of 'Try It Out Tuesdays'.

- **19 people with disabilities used the 5 sessions to access the bikes.** By attending a session, each person had the opportunity to ride a bike (often multiple bikes) for up to an hour, therefore engaging in physical activity.
- **4 adults with learning difficulties volunteered their time over the 5 sessions** - 18 hours of their time (plus 2 carers).



The fact that these volunteers are working alongside other volunteers without disabilities 'showcases' that everyone is able to get involved in some way and make a contribution to the project and therefore also the community that use the project.



The roles for this 'team' were different according to their skills – ranging from route marking with cones, giving out high visibility jackets to other volunteers, getting bikes out and putting away, registering and welcoming people to the project, collecting quotes, doing interviews of other volunteers for a blog and ensuring that bike music was being played!

*"I started to balance on the balancing bike!"* - Lucy, an adult with learning difficulties

*"Darcie cycled/pedalled for the first time ever after being hoisted from her wheelchair on to a bike!"* - Volunteer Instructor

*"It's great to see people with learning difficulties (LD) here volunteering – it's great to see some personal goals achieved...I knew A (one of our volunteers with a LD) when she was younger...she was awkward and difficult...now, look at her self-assurance...look at her control! I barely recognise her as the same person!"* - Outside professional

## GET INVOLVED...

You can get involved in a number of ways:

1. Encourage local community groups to apply for a grant from the Mills & Reeve Community Fund or any of the other funds that CCF manages.
2. Undertake some fundraising activities and raise money for the Mills & Reeve Community Fund.
3. Make a tax efficient gift on a monthly basis through a Payroll Giving Scheme.
4. Find out more about the projects that have received a grant from the Mills & Reeve Community Fund and offer to volunteer.

The **Cambridgeshire Community Foundation**, an independent charity (1103314), makes grants to local grass root community groups. Individuals, families, business, public sector organisations, and other charitable trusts make this possible by setting up Funds with us. Our purpose is to provide a grant making and fund management service to our donors, while supporting projects that make a real difference to the quality of life for local people. For more information on CCF, please visit [www.cambscf.org.uk](http://www.cambscf.org.uk).

*This Fund newsletter has been produced by the Foundation. The content is written by employees of the Foundation. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure the information is correct, this cannot be guaranteed.*

*Please contact the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation if you have any comments about the content - [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk)*