

*A fund established by Bidwells, managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, offering grants to community groups and charities local to Bidwells offices.*

## Introduction

The first round of grants from the Bidwells Community Fund have demonstrated that small sums of money can have a huge impact on local community groups and charities. This newsletter includes feedback from some of the projects funded in February and details of the second round of grants agreed by the panel in early July.

Staff across Bidwells' offices are gearing up for the Cambridge to Oxford Bike Ride on the 14th of August, marking the opening of the new Oxford office and raising money for the Community Fund. The challenge sees the team covering 100 miles in one day - to donate visit [www.localgiving.com/bidwells](http://www.localgiving.com/bidwells). Staff from Cambridge are also planning a Golf Day on the 8th of September and a clothing collection later in the year.

The Milton Keynes Office have set themselves a fundraising target of £500 which they hope to achieve by the end of the year.

## Feedback from funded projects

**Forward Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire were awarded a grant** for their youth club to run a sexual health project, a cooking project and a Tea Dance. All these activities are well underway and Chris Spokes went to visit the group. As well as presenting Forward Gamlingay with a certificate saying that they have been supported by Bidwells, Chris was taught how to make spaghetti bolognese by the young people involved in the club.

## CRITERIA OF THE BIDWELLS COMMUNITY FUND

Small grants of up to £500 will be awarded to projects in areas served by Bidwells' offices in England. The projects must engage and support local people, build stronger, healthier, more inclusive and sustainable communities, and aim to help people that face disadvantage.

The Fund will focus around five core themes -

1. Children, young people and families;
2. adults facing life crisis;
3. the natural environment;
4. community development and engagement;
5. health.



Chris Spokes at Forward Gamlingay.

## Feedback from funded projects *cont.*

**Second Chance** is a new support group in **Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk** for people who have suffered a stroke. The group were awarded a grant to pay for 6 months of weekly chair based exercise classes. Michael Hendry visited the group to see what happens at their weekly meetings and to present them with a certificate. Penny Baker who organises the group said "The exercise classes have been very successful, and the group has benefited greatly from them."



## Grants awarded at the July panel meeting

In **Norfolk**, **Musical Keys** was awarded a grant to provide music sessions for children with special needs. Musical Keys, based in Norwich delivers music and movement groups to help stimulate the social, emotional and physical development of children and young people with special and additional needs.

In **Cambridgeshire**, the **3rd Wisbech Guides** were awarded a grant to purchase camping equipment. The Guide Unit, which operates in one of the most deprived areas of Cambridgeshire offers opportunities to girls from a variety of different backgrounds. Camping is an important part of the Guiding programme, developing girls independence and confidence through new challenges and experiences.

In **Cambridgeshire**, the **Friends of Whitworth House** received a grant towards the costs of an outing for residents. Whitworth House offers secure housing to young women aged 16 to 25 in Cambridge giving priority to the homeless.

In **Essex**, **Chelmsford Chess** were awarded a grant to purchase office equipment. Covering the costs of essential equipment such as computers can be difficult for charities. Chelmsford Chess seeks to relieve homelessness and related hardship and distress amongst single adults in Chelmsford and Essex, through the provision of support services and temporary accommodation.

In **Milton Keynes**, the local branch of **SANDS the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity** received a grant to contribute to the costs of running monthly support groups, the costs of memory boxes and the annual memorial service. Milton Keynes Sands was set up in 2008 to offer local support to bereaved parents and their families and is run by volunteers who have all experienced the loss of a baby.

## Get Involved - Bidwells staff can get involved in a number of ways

1. Encourage local community groups or charities that you know of or have a connection with to apply for a grant. Applicants will need to meet some minimum requirements in terms of their governance and they will be contacted by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to talk this through.
2. Undertake some fundraising activities and raise money for the Bidwells Community Fund. Bidwells Partners have committed to match any money raised for the fund by staff. **Please contact Chris Spokes in Cambridge if you have fundraising ideas that the whole firm can get involved with.**
3. Find out more about the projects that have received a grant from the Bidwells Community Fund and take up volunteering opportunities.

The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, an independent charity (1103314), seeks to encourage and support those that wish to help local charities and community groups. We provide a range of grant making and fund management services to our donors, and aim to help support projects that make a real difference to the quality of life for local people. Donors can choose from a range of services which cater for small, regular donations (from say £20 per month), which can be put into your own 'charity account' to be applied at your discretion using your own personalised charity 'cheque book', to large, one off donations to set up your own Named Charitable Trust Fund with CCF.

To donate to the fund visit [www.localgiving.com/bidwells](http://www.localgiving.com/bidwells)