



Cheffins Community Fund: Update

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

Making a difference in the community

Introduction

This newsletter demonstrates the breadth of projects that have recently benefited from grants from the Cheffins Community Fund. The projects, from horse riding for disabled children in Newmarket to a cancer support charity in St Ives, all show how a small grant can have a very positive impact. This is reinforced by the feedback that is reported overleaf on events such as the Harry Potter Day run by 'CLAPA' and the purchase of special equipment by the Accuro Saturday Play Club.

Grant criteria

The Cheffins Community Fund offers small grants to local voluntary & community organisations working to help people in need in Cambridge, Ely, Newmarket, Haverhill and Saffron Walden.

Seeing how award helps a helpline

Bruce King and Remi Gannon from **Cheffins' Saffron Walden office** visited the Fledglings Family Services Project. They heard first hand how the £500 grant from the Cheffins Community Fund has been used to fund the helpline the charity runs. Fledglings delivers practical help to disabled children by giving expert information and advice to help parents and carers overcome the practical problems of everyday living. Remi said after the visit "It was great to meet the team behind Fledglings and understand in greater detail the incredible support they provide for so many families."



Special needs children and young carers benefit with recent grants from the Cheffins Community Fund

Riding as therapy

In March 2011, a grant of £900 was awarded to enable two groups of disabled children from local schools to continue their weekly riding with the Newmarket Riding for the Disabled Group.

The grant will contribute to pony hire, insurance and to purchase of specialist equipment for its disabled riders. The disabilities of the riders range widely from hearing impairment to learning difficulties, Asperger's syndrome and autism.

Game on in St Ives

Also in March, a grant of £470 was awarded to enable the West Anglia Crossroads Young Carers project to purchase a Nintendo Wii. The St Ives-based project provides support to some of the 350 children and young people from 8-18 years old who have been identified as young carers in Huntingdonshire. "The Wii will allow our young carers to have fun and an exciting break from their caring role."

Feedback on grants made towards the end of 2010 when Cheffins supported charities from St Ives to Saffron Walden



A Wizard Experience

With £650 financial support from the Cheffins Community Fund, the Cambridge branch of the Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA) held a 'Harry Potter Day' in November for children aged 7-12 years with a cleft lip and/or palate.

One 11-year old Harry with a cleft lip and hearing loss who is usually shy and withdrawn, proved his mother's worries unfounded, and had a great time showing confidence in his interaction with other children and becoming fully involved in group events.

Get Involved

You can get involved in a number of ways:

1. Encourage local community groups to apply for a grant from the Cheffins Community Fund or any of the other funds that CCF manages.
2. Undertake some fundraising activities and raise money for the Cheffins 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 Cheffins 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. Since set up in early 2004 the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, working in partnership with local and national businesses, charitable trusts, local government and individuals, has distributed over £4m to over 1000 groups across Cambridgeshire.

Box is a hit

Charity Accuro has reported to us that the "Infinity Box" purchased with a £500 grant from Cheffins Community Fund has proved a great hit with children attending the Saffron Walden Saturday Club playgroup for special needs children.

This very special box is used in a sensory tent. Although the box benefits all the children attending, it has proven especially appropriate for a child with cerebral palsy who is unable to walk and who gains great pleasure from the equipment.

Contributing to Cancer Support Group

£500 awarded to the St Ives Acorn Cancer Support Group's helped with the groups considerable running costs.

The aim of the group is to alleviate the physical and mental distress of people with cancer,

their carers, families and friends. The group also provides information about cancer to all those affected.

Acorn Groups meet once a month for two hours



Picture is from the Christmas party the group ran for members—it looks like they had some fun!