

Summary of Grant Recipients 2024

In our third year of grant-giving The Didcot Powerhouse Fund has made grants of over **£108,000 to 21 charities and community groups**. We are especially delighted that 10 of these grants are to charities new to Powerhouse.

This brings our total grant giving since Powerhouse launched just over two years ago to **56 grants totalling £283,000**.

For each grant at least 90% of beneficiaries are local, in the Powerhouse area, that is Didcot and surrounding villages, from Culham in the North to Blewbury in the South, and including the science campuses of Harwell, Culham and Milton Park.

Powerhouse 2024 Grant Recipients are:

Charity: All Yours Period Box CIC	Grant Recipient in 2023 and 2024
Building on their work in Didcot in 2023, All Yours will provide 370 period boxes through the Sofea Didcot Community Larder and the Didcot Foodbank. Beneficiaries are typically those on low income, unemployed or on longterm illness or disability support. The result is that they do not have to reuse period products, or have to improvise something themselves. This reduces their stress and anxiety, such as bleeding through clothes being visible at school or work, as well as reducing the risk of infection, especially toxic shock syndrome.	
Charity: Appleford CP	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024 (Small Grant)
This Small Grant is to support volunteers in Appleford to organize another village fete, as there has not been one since lockdown. The funds will help provide two bands during the fete, including dancing in the evening, as well as refreshment vouchers for volunteers. An estimated 500 will attend the fete from Appleford and surrounding villages, helping to strengthen community bonds.	
Charity: ARCh	Grant Recipient in 2022 and 2024
To recruit, train, resource and support for one year 10 new volunteer reading helpers to work one-to-one with disadvantaged children in primary schools in the Ox11 area. This will support at least 30 children for a year with individual literacy support through books games and conversation across 10 primary schools. The grant means the support is available free to schools for the first year.	

Charity: Bright Sparks Science CIC	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>The grant will provide 8 fully funded days of science workshops to 240 Year 6 pupils in primary schools within the Didcot Powerhouse area. These would be positioned as a reward for completing their SATs exams and in preparation for their transition to secondary education. The day would be split into themed sessions, focusing on a range of STEM careers from within the local community, highlighting local science at Harwell, Milton Park and Culham. Being fully funded means there is no cost to the school, and the workshops can be available to all pupils regardless of background.</p>	
Charity: Didcot Baby Mondays	Grant Recipient in 2022, 2023 and 2024
<p>Demand has been growing significantly for the groups run by Didcot Baby Mondays, and this grant will support not only the weekly sessions, including topic-based discussions and workshops, but also the monthly Bump Club antenatal classes, and a monthly paediatric first aid course. The Chair, who is a fully trained breast feeding counsellor, will also collaborate with Homestart SO First Babies Group by providing monthly support and workshops.</p>	
Charity: Didcot TRAIN	Grant Recipient in 2022, 2023 and 2024
<p>This year the grant will benefit 72 young people by funding a new project: Youth Champions, supporting 11-18 year olds, particularly those who are isolated, disadvantaged or suffer from poor mental health. Activities will include Weekly group mentoring programmes consisting of an LGBTQ+ group called Shout! and a Dinner & Debate group (with surplus food provided by Greggs). In response to demand a new weekly group for Neurodivergent young people will be launched, plus a new mental health first aider programme, called Impact.</p>	
Charity: Digit<all>	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>This project will support 280 young people aged 8-12 and 120 adults by providing them with the skills and knowledge to become discerning digital citizens. At Didcot Library Digit<all> will conduct cyber security and coding for climate action workshops for children (ages 9-13) and their parents, focusing on developing early warning systems and technology-driven solutions related to local animal species where they will combine coding and engineering skills to create sustainable solutions. Additionally workshops will be held at Aureus and Didcot Girls School, where offering Your Voice is Power coding workshops to help young people create music using code, emphasising the importance of social justice and providing young people of all backgrounds with a voice for change in their community. For adults, the charity will provide internet safety workshops to promote discerning use of technology.</p>	

Charity: Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire	Grant Recipient in 2022.2023 and 2024
<p>The grant will continue to fund the First Babies Group for another year, running a weekly drop-in parent and baby support group for first-time or expectant parents of first babies under 15 months. The group offers stimulating activities for babies as well as support and advice for new parents. This year provision will be extended to provide a monthly twin's session, plus hold monthly themed workshops in collaboration with Didcot Baby Mondays.</p>	
Charity: Justice In Motion	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>Working with Aureus School this project will deliver a programme of creative activities based around the 'CODE' project which explores issues around county lines, knife crime and how this affects young people and community cohesion. Across two performances CODE will be delivered to all 589 pupils at the school, using physical theatre, parkour and trials bike stunts with live rap and music to bring the issues to life for the young people in an engaging and accessible way. Supplementing this will be a series of workshops in the school that explore county lines and knife crime whilst teaching skills in parkour, live rap and physical theatre. A detailed education resource pack will be provided to the school so that teachers can deliver a 6-session lesson plan that goes into more detail around county lines and dangers inherent with being involved in such activity.</p>	
Charity: Little Pippins , Harwell	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>The pre-school already grows fruit and vegetables, and this grant is to create additional planters in front of the school where they would also be accessible to the local Harwell community, along with a water butt and composter. The aspiration is to create a larger community project, appealing to all ages, and available all year round. The school is in a diverse neighbourhood, including families living in flats, and this project could offer all local families the opportunity to explore growing and harvesting food.</p>	
Charity: My Life My Choice	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>My Life My Choice believe people with learning disabilities should have choice and control over their lives. The grant will fund establishing a self-advocacy group to meet the needs of Didcot residents who have a learning disability. Self-advocacy groups empower members to understand their rights, identify and communicate their needs, as individuals and as a team, to become more active participants in decision making that affects them and their communities. There is potential to have up to 45 members from within the Powerhouse area. As well as increasing confidence, knowledge and skills, for example through workshops, this support also tackles the isolation and loneliness often experienced by those with learning disabilities.</p>	

Charity: MyVision Oxfordshire	Grant Recipient in 2023 and 2024
<p>This grant continues the funding for the Wellness sessions funded by Powerhouse in 2023. The Didcot MyVision social group is for local visually impaired people, typically aged 55 – 92. Each wellness session starts with a wellbeing exercise, such as guided meditation, followed by a crafting session and ends with a lunch together. The sessions not only bring members out into the Didcot community, but have also created a community and friendships within the group.</p>	
Charity: Oxfordshire Play Association	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024 (Small Grant)
<p>This Small Grant is a contribution towards a Didcot / Vauxhall Barracks Play & Activity day to take place for about 1,000 children, young people and their families in St Edmonds Park in June. The event would offer free entrance and free activities for everyone promoting inclusion and community bonding. The aspiration is that local groups and young people can also be engaged in the planning and delivery of the event.</p>	
Charity: Oxford Parent-Infant Project (OXPIP)	Grant Recipient in 2022, 2023 and 2024
<p>OXPIP provides parent-infant therapy to families who are experiencing a barrier to bonding with their baby, working from conception to baby's second birthday. 15% of all babies born experience significant parent-infant relationship difficulties, and referrals to OXPIP from the Didcot area have grown 92% from 2020 to 2023. This funding enables OXPIP to provide an additional half day a week of parent-infant psychotherapy and family support in the Powerhouse area, supporting not only an improvement in parent-infant relationships, but also benefitting parents' mental health and their ability to engage with their local networks and community.</p>	
Charity: Oxfordshire Foster Carers Association	Grant Recipient in 2022 and 2024
<p>This grant provides laptops for foster children living in care supported by foster carers. The device will enable them to do homework sent from school on the apple app, read books from the online library and communicate and stay connected with birth siblings who are living in different locations around the country in other foster placements and children's home. It will also enable them to communicate with their friends and help keep these vulnerable children safe when out and about.</p>	

Charity: Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>This project works to strengthen our community's capacity to safeguard and support adults and children who are at risk in their own homes, with a particular focus on reaching older victims, and victims in the more rural parts of the Powerhouse area. The emphasis will be on working in partnership with local councils and community groups to raise awareness of support, and create Didcot DA Friends who will be provided with practical awareness sessions covering listening and responding skills, as well as providing assets and posters with relevant information.</p>	
Charity: Riverside Counselling Service	Grant Recipient in 2023 and 2024
<p>This grant contributes to Riverside Counselling delivering counselling sessions to adults in the Didcot community, supporting people with issues such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, bereavement, social isolation, gender identity, abuse, domestic violence and drug and alcohol issues.</p>	
Charity: South Oxfordshire Muslim Association	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>The SOMA Youth Project named "The Impact Initiative" is a six month programme designed to equip local youth aged 15-25 with essential skills and opportunities to make a significant impact in the community. The project delivers workshops on five key aspects of personal development: personal branding; presentation skills; public speaking; entrepreneurship and social responsibility. These, and wraparound themed social activities, not only provide the young people with high quality practical knowledge but also reinforce the core value of community engagement that lies at the heart of the SOMA vision. The programme ends with a short funded internship with a local charity as a practical application of social responsibility and direct contribution to the community.</p>	
Charity: Sustainable Didcot	NEW Grant Recipient in 2024
<p>This grant will enable Sustainable Didcot to build further utilisation of The Green Hub space, including recruitment of a part-time worker to deliver further sustainability activities and increased opening hours. This expansion aims to create a more environmentally conscious community and engage a more diverse range of participants interested in learning more about sustainability and environmental concerns.</p>	

Charity: The Abingdon Bridge	Grant Recipient in 2022, 2023 and 2024
<p>The continuation of an initiative launched in 2022 supporting young people 13+ of Didcot and the surrounding villages with preventative wellbeing and mental health initiatives with 1:1 counselling sessions for the most vulnerable young people, and workshops to support parents. Building on the learning from earlier years, and linking to this year's theme of community, there will also be a small focus group of Didcot young people to illuminate the barriers and opportunities for creating stronger bonds with the community.</p>	
Charity: The Cornermen CIC	Project: The Cornermen
<p>Building on the Grant in 2023 The Cornermen will continue to support men's mental health, including the prevention of male suicides, combining professional support workers with environments designed to be comfortable for men to talk in. The grant will provide 221.5 hours of one-to-one support for men experiencing suicidal ideations, and support the charity's focus on increasing social activities, exercise activities and a music group, that help to reduce isolation.</p>	

The Didcot Powerhouse Fund is held by [Didcot First](#), hosted by [The Oxfordshire Community Foundation](#) and run by volunteers

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