

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

in collaboration with



# "COMMUNITY CONNECT"

*Hinckley & Bosworth  
Community Volunteer Sector  
Quarterly Newsletter*

Photograph courtesy of St. James Village Hall Community Group– Serenity  
Sanctuary Project – Supported by Making a Difference



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### **Grants Assistance**

Kev Taylor

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### **Group Document Assistance**

Kev Taylor

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Kev Taylor

#### Editor's note:

I am pleased to present the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of your Quarterly VCS Newsletter – "Community Connect".

As many will already know the VCS Project is funded by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and delivered by The Rural Community Council.

It's been great to attend numerous community events during the last few months meeting & assisting our VCS Network Groups. As ever remember we are always here to help if you need:

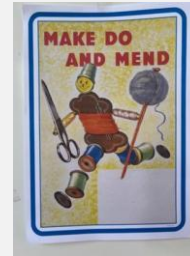
- Connections with likeminded groups locally
- Recruiting Volunteers
- Accessing Grant Funding



## Main story VCS Grant Funding

Information on current deadlines and access to application assistance

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# VCS GRANT FUNDING

**CvF & MaD Grants  
OPEN FOR APPLICATION**

Richard @ Stanton-under-Bardon Parish Council Event

Visit us at our mobile hub Mondays - For More Details Contact Richard on [rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk)

Fridays at The Atkins Building Hinckley 10:00 – 12:00 & 14:00 -16:00

I'd like to take the opportunity on behalf of all those connected with the VCS project to thank you for your hard work and dedication to your community initiatives in this past year.

I am pleased to announce that funding provided by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council via Making a Difference (MaD) and Community Volunteer Fund (CvF) Grants has opened for this financial year, 2025/26 & we are currently welcoming applications from Network Members.



*"I never thought it, but I'm calmer and appreciate the connection with others which I'm finding enjoyable through being in nature and talking. I, feel less worried and anxious as a result" – Service User Newbold Verdon Serenity Sanctuary*

## Help & Assistance with Application

With Grant Funding now open re applications, the following deadline dates for Making a Difference applications have been scheduled:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August

Help is available from your VCS Delivery Team to complete your application;

we are on standby to help – drop us a line at either [ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk) or [rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk) to arrange an appointment for a 1-2-1 workshop.



## What Your Group Needs to Access Grant Funding via VCS

To apply for VCS Grant Funding, you will need the following documents:

- A completed Application Form
- Group Management Documents
- A bank account in the name of the Group applying

If your group doesn't have a Community Bank Account or a Treasurer's Account, get in touch as we can help in providing documents to assist.





## VCS Grants Making a Difference in our Communities

### *Make Do & Mend Community Group*

*'I loved having a go on the sewing machine, I had a great time & even made myself a bag!'*

*- Service User Make Do & Mend*

"Make Do and Mend," aims to support the development of St. James Village Hall Community Group's community engagement in Newbold Verdon & surrounding villages.

The projects' aim is to encourage ecological, economical and environmentally friendly practices and to introduce new initiatives through a community of people who can teach skills and reduce waste through environmental impact and education. The group is run by talented volunteers who give their time to teach skills such as woodworking, DIY skills, gardening advice, fixing computers, sewing, knitting & embroidery. In line with the ethos of Make do and Mend, clients come along and can learn skills, have a go at a project or contribute to an existing one, or else bring something along that would otherwise have been thrown away, and our team will fix them.

Thanks to the VCS Making a Difference grant, we successfully procured essential tools and equipment, ensuring inclusivity by removing barriers to participation that could arise from a lack of resources. The acquisition of a sewing machine and assorted tools has already proven to be a significant asset for our group.

Participants have expressed their enjoyment and fulfilment through their experiences in the program. Testimonials such as, "I loved having a go on the sewing machine and I had a great time! Look, I made myself a bag!" highlight the joy and confidence gained from learning new skills.



*Make Do & Mend Volunteer passing on sewing skills*

One of our notable successes thus far has been the engagement of skilful volunteers who have been crucial to the initiative's growth. While we are still in the early stages of development, the initial reception has been overwhelmingly positive. Interestingly, we have attracted a broad demographic of attendees, with a surprising number of teenagers eager to acquire new skills, exceeding our initial expectations.

In conclusion, "Make Do and Mend" represents not only a step toward sustainability but also a meaningful effort to foster connections within the community, encouraging a culture of learning, sharing, and repairing for the future.



*A true community event attended by all ages thanks to Hinckley & Bosworth VCS funding*

## How the VCS Partnership has Helped

In the world of grant funding, it is crucial that a community group has their own named bank account.

With financial sector regulations being strict in this area almost all funders will now only pay grant funding into a business account in a group's name, but fear not if your group doesn't have one here at the VCS, we can assist with an application by helping to provide crucial documentation such as:

- Group Constitution Document
- Safeguarding Policies
- Risk Assessments

All of which are needed to make the application to various banks. but don't just take our word for it we have helped numerous groups including:

- Beyond Belief Community Dancers
- Desford Village Hall

In helping with needed documentation these groups are well on their way to securing additional grant funding from sources such as Asda Community Fund making their groups more sustainable for the future.

If your group needs help with their documentation and finding a Treasurer's Account for your group, please do not hesitate to get in touch and let us help you continue your crucial great works within the Borough.

*"Help provided really has helped me to get ready to launch my group with our first dates at Pathways no coming in July 2025"*

*- Jennifer Barrett, Beyond Belief Community Dancers*



## Get in Touch

Email: [ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk)

Tel: 0800 772 0045

RCC Website:

<https://www.ruralcc.org.uk>

Find Us on:

Facebook: [\(20+\) Hinckley & Bosworth VCS Network Group | Facebook](#)

WhatsApp:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EosnUmWLz1UEj4FIgFR8Sq>

# VCS Documentation Assistance

Group Documentation Writing



Find out more about the local works the RCC is carrying out in your local area.

With projects aimed at enhancing and improving the lives and experience of our local communities.

For more information and to learn about our recent Community Awards celebrating 'Community Heroes & Groups' please follow the link below or JOIN US using the QR Code.

### Halls Together

1

Halls Together is led by John Preston, our expert advisor based at the RCC, John is available to provide bespoke advice and guidance on all aspects of hall management, resources & training.

### W.O.W – Warm Optimistic Well

2

Our team is travelling to all corners of rural Leicestershire and Rutland, popping up warm and welcoming spaces for people to connect and explore creative ways to stay warm, well, and save a bit of money too.

### M.A.C- Cadent Mobile Advice Centre

3

Launching April 25 our holistic mobile advice centre. Will be travelling throughout rural Leicestershire with our Rural Advice Centre with advisors trained to provide free in person advice on a range of issues including:

- Energy saving & Carbon Monoxide safety
- Money saving and affordable living
- Food bank referrals
- The Priority Services Register
- Housing, benefits and other local authority services
- Employment, training, and job search
- Mental health and wellbeing

# The Rural Community Council

*Working in Hinckley & Bosworth*



JOIN US

For More Info  
Search

<https://www.ruralcc.org.uk>

### BUILD & HIRE

4

**BUILD – Working within Bagworth, Markfield, Ratby & surrounding villages**

**HIRE – Working within the Borough**

Supporting individuals who face barriers to accessing education, training and employment.

The project supports individuals by providing personal coaching sessions in your local area. These sessions will develop your skills and confidence to access education, training and employment.

The project will work with individuals to boost their confidence and help them to develop their skills and experience through volunteering, employment, training and skills development.

### Neighbourhood Mental Health Café – Earl Shilton

5

Our friendly team of staff and volunteers are not medical professionals; however, they have been mental health first aid trained and have the time to listen and support you. They all have great knowledge about mental health and wellbeing services around the area and can help you to access these as needed.

# Spotlight Membership

## Featured Network Members – June 25

### Hinckley Area Foodbank

Hinckley Area foodbank is run by a partnership of 9 Churches in the Hinckley District, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.

Overseen by Hinckley Christian Community Action, and which enjoys the support of many more churches, schools, and other organisations.

We know that crisis can strike anyone, and we also understand how difficult it can be to think about walking through a foodbank door. That's why our foodbank volunteers aim to welcome everyone who comes to the foodbank with compassion, kindness and a listening ear.

Foodbank volunteers take the time to listen and support you. They are specially trained to know about local services and offer practical guidance so that you have access to the right support, helping you to break out of crisis.



### To Find Out More & Get in Touch

To provide the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation we work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

Agencies we work with include: Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services and some local charities.

If you [call or email](#) our foodbank we can talk through your situation and put you in touch with a relevant local agency.

*"If your group would like to feature in this segment next quarter, please reach out at [ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk)"*

### Newbold Verdon Youth Group



Welcoming a new member to the VCS Network:

Newbold Verdon Youth Group held fortnightly at Newbold Community Club situated in the heart of the village.

New members are welcomed with the club having a range of activities for your children from video games, board games, arts and crafts to pool, darts and table tennis 🎱🎯

There is also a small tuck shop with sweet treats and drinks available!

Next sessions: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June & 8<sup>th</sup> July

Opening times are 6pm till 7:30pm 😊 for further dates & info please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/pr ofile.php?id=100063658354462>

### Café Savvy Bagworth



Cafe Savvy, situated at Bagworth Community Centre, Station Road is a true community initiative aimed at teaching adults with learning disabilities new skills to enhance current living abilities.

Catering for all indulge in a delightful array of cakes, pizzas, pastries & more that will make your taste buds dance!

A place where you can build community connections and forge friendships while making a difference.

Why not visit & treat Dad this Father's Day:







23rd-30th June - Double the Difference!

This is a great time to support Hinckley Area Foodbank as your donation will make double the difference.

From 12pm on 23rd June, our campaign page will go live and we will have 7 days to raise £2500 in donations.



#SMALLCHARITYWEEK

This will be matched up to £5000.

Please scan the QR code during this period to donate.

Thank you for your support xxx



The Big Give



Hinckley Area Foodbank have been successful in their application to join the Big Give. One of only a few hundred charitable concerns nationwide to do so, but they need your help to continue their valuable work locally having already helped 800 people leave food poverty behind them in the last year alone. During the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> June Big Give will match any donations made to Hinckley Area Foodbank up to the total value of £5000. If your able to and can do so, please use the QR Code attached to donate' what you can & help

'Make a Difference'. Please remember to tick 'Gift Aid' option as every penny counts.

**"I have found that getting in to volunteering in the local community as well as attending the Earl Shilton Neighbourhood Mental Health Café has helped me considerably in getting back on track"**

**"Depression and anxiety are illnesses that can affect anyone."**

**"I would say to anyone that is struggling, please don't give up, you can beat this."**



## Volunteer Spotlight

### *Les's Volunteering Journey:*

#### *A Path of Healing & hope*

It all began with a simple flyer that his friend handed to him, a small piece of paper that would ultimately change his life. It was an invitation to the RCC Mental Health Café, which they had picked up from the Desford Library. Intrigued by the prospect of connecting with others who may be experiencing similar challenges, Les decided to take a leap of faith and attended the Earl Shilton Mental Health Café. Little did he know, this would be the starting point of his remarkable volunteering journey.

Upon arrival, Les was welcomed by a warmth that enveloped the room. It was more than just a café; it was a sanctuary where people could share their experiences without judgment. During his first encounter, he met Vikki & Emma, kind & compassionate individuals. They guided Les further into the community, introducing him to the Voluntary & Community Sector Hub at Ratby Library, where he learned more about local opportunities to volunteer from Richard at the VCS.

#### **Les's VCS Journey:**

Les has been navigating life and coping with his own traumatic experiences for the past three years. He was struggling with motivation and often found it challenging to get out of bed each day. Les shares his story, whilst exuberating the flicker of resilience within him. Les's journey with his health mirrors the struggles of others, but through his own resilience & fortitude Les is on a path toward healing & hope through the power of positive mind set & volunteering.

Fast forward ten months, and the transformation Les has undergone is nothing short of extraordinary. The mental health café playing a pivotal role in his recovery journey. Each interaction, every shared smile, & heartfelt conversation has fuelled his progress. Les can now confidently say that he feels a profound sense of achievement. The café not only provided him with the support he needed but also ignited a passion within him to give back.

With unwavering encouragement from Vikki and Emma, two incredible team leaders, Les's confidence and outlook on life have soared. He's taken steps towards self-care—going on walks, enjoying nature, and embracing moments of joy that he once thought were lost. His heart is full, knowing that while he's come so far, his journey is far from over.

Les states that as he continues to volunteer at the mental health café, he can take pride in sharing his own experiences with others who walk through those doors. He hopes to inspire them to see that healing is possible, that light can break through even the darkest of times. The connections he's made, the stories he's heard, and the laughter shared have not only enriched his life but have also created a vibrant community where everyone feels valued and understood.

In the end, Les's volunteering journey has become a beautiful tapestry woven from threads of struggle, resilience, and hope. He stands firm in the belief that, together, we can uplift one another and pave the way toward brighter days ahead. Every small step counts, and he is grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside others as we navigate our way through life's challenges, one cup of coffee at a time.

For more info on the Earl Shilton Neighbourhood Mental Health Café visit:

<https://www.ruralcc.org.uk/earlshilton/>

#### **Want To Get Involved or Know Someone Looking for a Volunteering Role Locally ?**

If you know anyone who would like to volunteer locally help them take the first step today and embark on their own volunteer journey to make a difference.

Visit the Rural Community Council website:

**HBBC VCS Partnership - RCC**

or email to schedule an appointment

[rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk)



# Interested in volunteering locally?

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

in collaboration with



## What can you get out of volunteering?

At the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council funded Volunteer & Community Sector initiative we want to make sure you get as much out of volunteering as you put into it. That's why we work hard to match your aims, goals, aspirations, personality, available time and everything else with opportunities in your area.

That's why we work hard to match your aims, goals, aspirations, personality, available time and everything else with opportunities in your area.

Canvassing our wonderful volunteers to understand what they've gained from their experiences with us. Their answers show that volunteering is not only good for the local community but can improve your physical & mental health & wellbeing. Here are just some of the things our volunteers have said they get from giving their time:

New skills & valuable work experience

Making new friends

Better physical & mental health and wellbeing

Giving something back

Improving your confidence

Sense of connection to others in the community



Still have questions or want to find a role locally?

We understand that you might still have questions about volunteering or want to know what roles are available locally.

If so, contact Richard or Kev at

[rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk)

Or

[ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk)

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

## HBBC Warm Welcomes Annual Forum Event

I would like to extend my thanks to both Jenny & Angela at Hinckley & Bosworth Warm Welcomes for inviting us to your Annual Forum Event.

It was truly fantastic to present the Voluntary & Community Sector Initiative to your groups & I look forward to working with you all in the future.

I wanted to share some of the fantastic photos captured during the event.

If you've an event you'd like us to attend, please get in touch at;

[ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk)



Group leaders & volunteers are warmly invited to join us for our

# Warm Welcome

## Celebration & Networking Event

Tuesday 20th May 2025  
1.00pm to 3.00pm  
at  
Newbold Verdon Methodist Church Hall  
52 Main Street, Newbold Verdon,  
Leicestershire. LE9 9NN

Light refreshments provided

RSVP by 6th May to Jenny  
[jennifer.fry@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.fry@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)  
Phone 07557 816741

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Funded by UK Government




## Warm Welcomes Event

*Thank You for Inviting Us*



**Help Shape the Future**

 **Spread the Word**



**If you know of any Community Groups, Clubs, Non-For-Profit Groups in your area please put us in touch!**

**“Help Grow and Shape the Future of Your VCS Network by Spreading the Word”**

**Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council**



## **GET IN TOUCH WITH US**

**Don't be shy! If you have a good news story or even just want to advertise an event or services in our next edition of**

**“Community Connect “ –  
September 25 - get in touch.**

**Remember the VCS is a free resource funded by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for you our local Community Sector Groups.**