

Grassroots Grants



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What are DCDT and Grassroots Grants?

Doncaster Central Development Trust (DCDT) is a resident led Community Interest Company. It was established in January 2008 to be the successor body of Doncaster New Deal for Communities (NDC) to continue and sustain its regeneration work beyond 2011 and into the future.

In July 2008, DCDT secured the contract from the Community Development Foundation to become the Local Funder for Doncaster to deliver small grants part of its national Grassroots Grants programme funded by the Office of the Third Sector.

Grassroots Grants funding supports the voluntary sector across England to build stronger communities. Managed nationally by the Community Development Foundation (CDF), the fund is comprised of two elements: small grants, delivered in Doncaster by DCDT; and an endowment fund, managed for Doncaster by the South Yorkshire Community Foundation: www.sycf.org.uk



Katie Wall, Grants Manager for DCDT and NDC said:

“We were delighted to be awarded the contract to deliver the Grassroots programme in Doncaster and feel immensely proud of what our local groups have achieved. Grassroots Grants has ensured that many of Doncaster’s smaller groups have survived another year or so, to continue working towards objectives such as responding to local issues, reducing isolation, creating opportunities and engaging new people. In some cases the funding has helped the groups along the road to becoming self sustainable which is fantastic, but it is important to recognise that some groups will never be in that position and to them, programmes such as Grassroots Grants, are invaluable.”

Therese Kennedy

DCDT Vice Chair & Panel member
of Grassroots Grants

It is with great pleasure that I write these words to celebrate the fantastic work we have been able to achieve in Doncaster these past few years through the Grassroots Grants programme.

The hard work that has gone in from the team has meant that over 170 groups have been given financial support and guidance they may have otherwise struggled to attain, and that is something we should be very proud of as an organisation, and also as a community.

So many people are benefiting from the continuation of support groups, community clubs, and the social enterprises that are helping people learn new skills become more independent and, importantly, more confident in themselves.

It has had precisely the impact we hoped it would. We all know that small amounts of money can

make a big difference, and we have seen it proved yet again. Look at the children gaining confidence, fitness, self-esteem and concentration in class after getting involved with the Rowing Club.

In other ways, it has meant people didn't have to sacrifice something that gave them happiness, such as the dancers from Moorends Recycled Teenagers. They thought they were approaching their last waltz, before they secured funding to keep going – much to the delight of the 30 members who take so much pleasure from their weekly soirees.

And groups who depend on their support networks to get them through tough times, like Asperger's No Limits, Doncaster Stroke Support Group, and Vision Mexborough, have all been sustained, making life that bit easier for people genuinely in need.



The point was to help groups providing significant value to the community with the means to sustain themselves for the good of the people of Doncaster. The legacy of Grassroots Grants will be evident in the groups we have funded for years to come.

We have achieved this and we can be proud of the people that make up our communities and our town.

Therese Kennedy

Arts



Ivanhoe Art Group

Ivanhoe Art Group received a Grassroots Grant of £2,650 to help its members brush up on their art skills.

The group is very popular with older citizens in the Conisbrough area, as well as younger people. The grant has enabled Ivanhoe Art Group to increase the quality of the lessons and tutoring that the members enjoy.

It provides a focus for the members of the community and allows people to get out of the house and take part in something they enjoy alongside friends from similar backgrounds and who share common interests.

Carol Johnson, the group's chairperson, said: "We are very passionate about our art group and we have been able to make progress, both in terms of the quality of the teaching and conditions as well as in merely being able to keep the classes going.

"The grant has meant we have a fantastic tutor and as a result an increased membership. Consequently, we are increasingly self-sufficient and the income we are now able to generate will make the group more sustainable in the coming years, which is wonderful news for all of us."

Some of the extra money that has been generated will be used to fund future art trips and to help with further possible expansions of membership.

LEGACY

Ivanhoe Art Group has gone from strength to strength since the Grassroots Grant. They are now self-sufficient thanks to the extra income that has been generated through better quality tutoring and an improved service. Income now allows them to cover rent independently and members young and old will continue to maximise the benefit of improving their skills and meeting with friends. An exhibition is planned for the group to sell its paintings this year.

For more information, please contact Carol Johnson at: **01709 516306** or email: **caroljcons@yahoo.co.uk**



Dolcliffe Hall Art Group

An amateur Doncaster arts group has more than doubled its membership following a £2,962 grant.

Dolcliffe Hall Art Group enjoyed a relatively good membership base of between 12-15 people, before the money from Doncaster Central Development Trust's Grassroots Grants programme funded running costs, new equipment and an expert tutor.

Since then, membership has risen to 28 and the numbers still continue to rise.

The group, established in 2005, helps older people to improve their painting skills as well as reducing social isolation providing a welcoming environment for people to meet and form lasting friendships.

Michael Johnson, Treasurer for Dolcliffe Hall Art Group, said: "The improved equipment and provisions, as well as the presence of a quality tutor has meant we are attracting more people than ever.

"Without the group, a lot of people wouldn't take anywhere near the enjoyment from their lives as they're now able to take, and the fact we are able to become much more self-sufficient as a result is extremely pleasing."

Dolcliffe Hall Art Group members have exhibited their work in local libraries and in the community centre and sold paintings, which helps the group continue to prosper.

LEGACY

Now a member of the Society for All Artists (SAA), Dolcliffe Hall Art Group has become more self-sufficient, doubled in size and is still attracting interest from people in the area due to an improved level of service.

For more information, please contact Michael Johnson at: **07971237931** or email: **michael.johnson43@yahoo.co.uk**

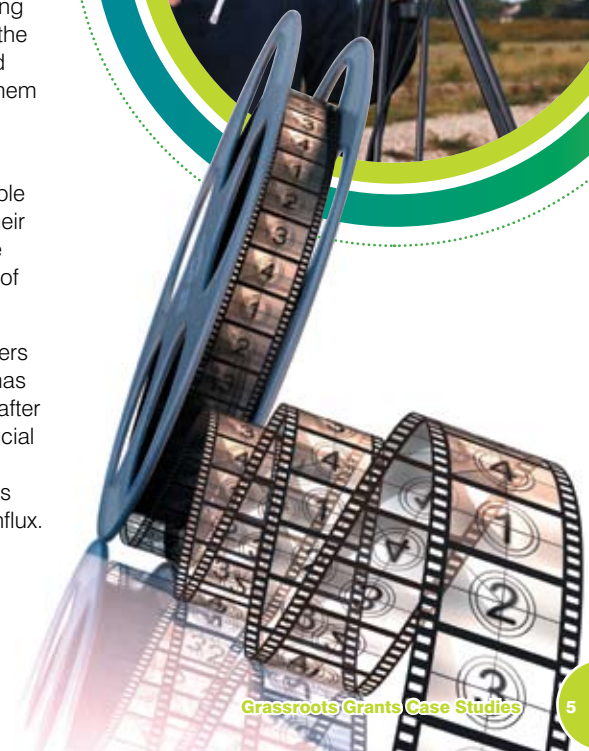
Bawtry Phoenix Film Society

Bawtry Phoenix Film Society's modernised facilities have helped Doncaster film buffs take their movie interests to the big screen.

A £5,000 Grassroots Grant paid for a state-of-the-art projector, support bracket and a top-of-the-range Blu-Ray player for watching films and learning to appreciate the art of the filmmaker. One supplier was so impressed with the work of the society that he gave them a new screen.

It has also led to the society's first Junior Player's film production when they were able to film and project a recording of one of their stage performances, using the experience to gain a better understanding of aspects of stagecraft.

The new system has attracted new members and volunteers to the society, which now has a membership of 92, an increase of eight after the grant, and four more volunteers so crucial to the smooth running of the society. The ceiling mounting of the new equipment has freed extra seating to accommodate the influx.



John Hardwick, secretary of BPFs, said:

“The new equipment has had a fantastic effect on people and the new membership has reflected that. There has been very positive feedback on the sound and picture quality made possible with the new equipment – and it has opened up new interest in the art of film making, and given a deeper understanding of different cultures.

“It is gradually leading to a greater appreciation and willingness to stay and talk about films – something we want to develop further through the notes prepared for the audience.”

LEGACY

Having more volunteers means BPFs is better equipped to keep operating and the first junior production is a huge step forward. Following their success, the society has supported three other groups by giving advice and loaning equipment in the Barnsley, Doncaster and Scrooby areas. This is the first tentative step in Bawtry Phoenix Film Society's plans to have greater involvement with community associations in South Yorkshire.

For more information contact John Hardwick at: jnhardwick@btinternet.com

Fishlake Drama Group

To be or not to be? That was the question for Fishlake Drama Group.

Four years ago, they decided they needed new members and some new ideas to keep the group going. With an experienced older core of members, the group decided to allow anyone over 14 years of age to join, leading to big changes to their constitution and costs to cover all childcare issues. They also desperately needed a reliable sound system to boost the players and as well as their audiences.

Fishlake Drama Group then received a Grassroots grant of £4,939, enabling them to survive and well... be!

Young thespians joined whilst completing GCSE's and A Levels and it brought new life to the group. One member went to university and then returned to run the new public address system, putting into practice the skills he was learning on his course, and provided most effective sound support for the group. It helped residents of Fishlake and the surrounding areas to get the most out of the group's artistry.

The group has 35 active members and they provide local areas with a great source of



entertainment. It is a point of local pride that so many turn out to see the group perform.

Pam Jones, the chair of the group said: “We are delighted that having professional equipment and the means to continue can help us be self sufficient as the quality of our performances can go through the roof! It means that when new members join the cast they can enjoy a better quality environment in which to learn and perform.

“Fishlake drama group is so important to the area and the local community readily supports us by coming to see performances. We have the capacity to produce three different shows throughout the year and have been asked to perform outside Fishlake, which is wonderful in terms of income and experience for the group.”

LEGACY

Fishlake Drama Group has been given the tools to become self-sufficient and has already managed to put on professional performances for both local and regional audiences.

For more information, contact Pamela Jones on **01405 785243** or email: **fpjones@talktalk.net**



Doncaster Plant Works Amateur Boxing Club

Local amateur boxing club, The Doncaster Plant Works has received a Grassroots Grant of £4,528 to keep the gym doors open and keep up the fight in local residents.

Doncaster Plant Works Amateur Boxing Club was almost knocked out of existence until its Chair Ken Blood got in touch with the Grassroots Grants team and secured the funding to cover rental costs for the gym.

The boxing club, located in Hexthorpe, attracts between 30 and 40 young people and adults to four sessions a week, for just £3 weekly subs. This means promising boxers, or even just those interested in the art of boxing as a way of keeping fit and disciplined, train for 75p per session and receive an excellent standard of coaching.

Ken said: "Without Grassroots, we would have more than likely had to shut down. It has made a massive difference to the group and they have been so good to us, in terms of service and seeing the good we do in the community.

"By giving us a grant for running costs, it has allowed us to continue to reach out to the community and provide a safe and welcoming environment where young people and adults can take part in a competitive sport that may give them the key to representing their country or become professional within the world of boxing.

"Simply in the direction and hope this provides these lads, it is a wonderful service for the local community and the work of my coaches Paul Harrison and Steve Boyle is immense."

Doncaster Plant Works Amateur Boxing Club, which now has 27 of its members registered to box legally through the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA), is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.



Licensed members also perform for local fans at the Doncaster Dome and the money raised goes back into the running of the club, helping it become self-sufficient.

LEGACY

Young boxers are being coached to a good standard and at a low cost, giving them a start in amateur boxing and the opportunity to go as far as their talent takes them.

The community also benefits through young people engaging in positive activities rather than crime and anti-social behaviour.

For more information contact Ken Blood at: **01302 880857/07972 354929** or email: **k.blood98@btinternet.com**

Yorkshire Main FC

Yorkshire Main FC received a £5,000 Grassroots Grant to help fund a brighter future for the club.

The money was used to supply the new floodlights at the Edlington Lane ground with the first stage electrical connection.



The club, formed in 1925, has never had floodlit facilities, which has hampered its progression in previous years, as the venue was unable to be used for sporting purposes in evenings and even caused problems during particularly dull winter afternoon games.

But now, Yorkshire Main FC is able to illuminate the Edlington area and increase the usage of its ground for local players and junior football.

George Hanlon, club chairman, said: "The overriding benefit of the new floodlights is, not only that Yorkshire Main Football Club has progressed as an organisation, but we now have the first floodlit football facility within a six-mile radius of Edlington.

"That means that all of a sudden we have the ability to stage more games and sessions for other local organisations, such as Doncaster & District Football Association, Doncaster and District Football League and Edlington White Stars Junior FC, and that increases our ability to sustain the football club financially as well as give our local community a more accessible venue."

"We're grateful to Grassroots Grants for giving us this opportunity, which has given us the tools to potentially provide a brighter future for grassroots football in the Edlington area."

LEGACY

The floodlights at the Edlington Lane ground increase the financial viability of the football club as it now can be used in evenings by external organisations so it can generate income. Being the only floodlit sports facility within six miles of Edlington also is a significant boost for the area and its local footballers.

For more information, contact George Hanlon at: **07990 670609** or email: **george.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk**



Doncaster Rowing Club

Doncaster Junior Rowing Club has made a big splash in the town following a £4,875 Grassroots Grant that was used to buy five state-of-the-art rowing machines.

It has meant that when the River Don is unsafe to practice on, the members can still practice and train indoors using the new equipment.

Since the new equipment has been purchased, four members of the club have been invited to trial for the Great Britain performance squad with the hope of joining an elite training group geared towards the Olympics in 2016.

But perhaps more significantly however, the new rowing machines are much easier to move, which has meant that Doncaster Junior Rowing Club has taken its equipment into local secondary schools to increase awareness of the sport. The overwhelming response has led to a 50% increase in membership.

Dudley Fletcher, Junior Development Officer of Doncaster Junior Rowing Club, said: ***“Our philosophy is to develop the health, fitness and sporting ability in everyone and our presence in the schools is great, which we have been able to establish thanks to Grassroots Grants.*”**

“The pleasing thing is that these young people are now increasing their fitness levels and their teachers are reporting that there is a definite and significant increase in self-esteem and confidence in these boys and girls and that they are performing and concentrating better in school.”

Doncaster Junior Rowing Club is open to children and young people from the age of 11 to 18 and the monthly subs fee is only £5.

LEGACY

The increased number of members means the club is now more financially viable and can continue to provide the expertise and quality training to young rowers in Doncaster. It continues to grow in size and is reaching out to more young people who are benefiting from improved health and fitness, self-esteem and concentration levels in school.



For more information visit:
www.rowing4all.com or contact
Dudley Fletcher at **07889 441922** or
dudleyfletcher@yahoo.co.uk

Adwick St. Lawrence Bowling Club

Bowlers from an historic Doncaster club have hit the jackpot with a Grassroots Grant of £3,820.

Adwick St. Lawrence Bowling Club celebrated its 80th anniversary in August 2010, and got to show off its brand new bowling equipment.

The grant was also used to buy a new hot water boiler and electric window shutters for the club house.

The investment has enabled the club's committee to reach out to more local men and women who enjoy the sport, and have also been able to attract a younger generation of players to the sport.

Carol Raven from Adwick St. Lawrence Bowling Club, said: "We were delighted to be able to bring in new equipment to the club, it has given everyone connected a new spring in their step.

"Also, in terms of comfort, the clubhouse is secure and a much more appealing place to be, so the proud members are really grateful to Grassroots for this opportunity."

"Being able to attract younger players to the club is wonderful for us; it is the next generation of bowlers in our area. We hope we can further increase our numbers by taking the game into local schools and showing the kids, who might not have ever thought about bowling."

This group was established in 1930 and currently has a membership of around 40 who all regularly attend, taking part in league matches and competitions.

LEGACY

The new equipment and more welcoming clubhouse have helped the club to increase its membership in both older and younger generations. But most importantly it has given the club more confidence and better means to educate young school children about the sport, in the hope of reinvigorating bowling in the local youth.

For more information, please contact Carol Raven on: **01302 724394/07708 659557** or email: **carolraven@tiscali.co.uk**



Doncaster Junior Badminton Club

Young badminton players from Doncaster and South Yorkshire have been selected to represent Yorkshire after significant investment in the development of local coaches improved their game.

A Grassroots Grant of £870 was awarded to Doncaster Junior Badminton Club for hall hire and to support some of its volunteers to achieve Level 1 coaching badges through Badminton England.

The increased quality of the coaching helped to boost the numbers of the club, which has meant more players are taking part in open junior tournaments, where they have the chance to be noticed by the county coaching set up.

Stephen Hynes, the club's chairman said: "Grassroots has given us the chance to survive, to train more coaches and improve our ability to teach the skills and techniques, of badminton. We were at the time the only junior club dedicated to teaching badminton from beginner to advanced level within a 15 mile radius of Doncaster.

"We have taught players basic and advanced skills. Some now have the ability to represent Yorkshire and hopefully their country. The grant has allowed us to keep going and attract more youngsters and volunteer helpers to the sport of badminton. All of the children in Doncaster can now develop their badminton skills with guidance from qualified coaches at Adwick Leisure Centre, and at the new volunteer run clubs at Rossington and Edlington.



"Badminton is a high energy sport that is enjoyed the world over by people of all ages and abilities. We are delighted that we can continue to provide a high level of opportunity and expertise in Doncaster to young players when it looked like we could lose a generation to more mainstream sports."

LEGACY

The coaches at the club have opened the doors to new and exciting possibilities for some of the most talented young people. Also, the club is improving the skills and fitness of those who just want to enjoy the sport.

Contact Stephen Hynes for more information on: **01302 725327** or email: **doncasterjbc@mac.com**



Health

Vision Mexborough

Vision Mexborough, formed in 2006, was saved from extinction by a Grassroots Grant of £3,012.

It is the only group in the Mexborough area providing support for people who have impaired vision or who are registered blind.

The group has attracted three new members since the grant and now provides 20 local people with a safe environment to socialise with friends who face similar challenges and to hear guest speakers offer advice and support.

Mary Oliver, from Vision Mexborough, said: ***“We are so happy to have received the Grassroots Grant as without the money we probably would have folded.*”**

“The grant has paid for the rental of our meeting space and for transporting our members to and from group meetings every two weeks. It can be very scary if you’re unable to see and Vision Mexborough gives members a safety net of like-minded peers, friendship and can help provide a purpose for people who feel isolated and alone.”

Vision Mexborough is a member of both the Royal National Institute of Blind People and the Partially Sighted Society, which allows them to work together and signpost members onto further help and advice should they need it.



LEGACY

Vision Mexborough has been able to secure its future thanks to the Grassroots Grant and can continue to provide its service, which is the only one of its kind in the Mexborough area, to people with impaired vision and those who are registered blind.

For more information contact Mary Oliver on: **01709 591013** or email: **vision.mex@hotmail.co.uk**

SIR OR MADAM
I HAVE GOT TO LET YOU KNOW
THE EXTENT VISION HAS
MADE TO MY LIFE, THE TRIPS
PIRNEAS AND ADVICE
I AM SO PLEASD TO HAVE
THIS PLACE TO GO TO,



From the desk of:
Mrs M Hughes Want to say a Big
thank you to those who
help to make our day
and for the lovely meal
we had
Good Bless You
ALL

Doncaster Stroke Support Group

Doncaster Stroke Support Group has been allowed to grow and support more people who have suffered strokes in Doncaster, thanks to a £1,740 Grassroots Grant.

The grant, which was delivered in two installments, was used to cover travel fees and refreshments for a Christmas outing in 2009 and travel costs for service users to and from the meeting venue in Kirk Sandall.

Doncaster Stroke Support Group was established in September 2008 and catered for 29 members before the Grassroots Grant meant they were able to reach out and accommodate a further eight members.

Gerald Bates, Chair of the group said: ***“The Grassroots Grant has had a huge impact on the group because our members and carers needn’t worry about getting to the group as the expense is covered, and that means greater inclusion and a more meaningful, consistent involvement in the programme which does so much for confidence, self-esteem and the support of knowing you’re not alone.”***

The service users meet once a month in a safe and friendly environment, where they can pick up useful information about numerous health-related topics, as well as getting advice from stroke outreach co-ordinators who regularly attend from Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI).

Guest speakers also come out to the group to talk about health and well being and ways of dealing with the consequences of strokes for sufferers, families and carers.

LEGACY

The grant has meant more people are able to travel to meetings and the influx of new members shows the Doncaster Stroke Support Group offers valuable help to sufferers, families and carers. It gives them a platform to share problems and find solutions in a supportive environment, and it hopes to continue to do its valuable work in the future.

For more information contact Gerald Bates at: **01302 780589/07719 383636** or email: **geraldbates@btinternet.com**



Clouds Community Counselling Service Ltd

A free counselling service for the people of Doncaster has been sustained following a £4,990 Grassroots Grant.

Clouds Community Counselling Service Ltd, based in Thorne was established in 2007 to provide one-on-one counselling to individuals over the age of 13 who suffer from a wide range of issues, including; depression, anxiety, lack of confidence, low self-esteem, anger, bereavement, as well as family and work related issues.

Counselling is provided by qualified counsellors who are members of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists. As each counsellor works on a voluntary basis, the grant was used to cover basic costs to run the group, including volunteer expenses and telephone costs.

Sally Chamberlain, chairperson of Clouds, said: "Clouds provides an invaluable service for the people of Doncaster and really fills a gap in the NHS in helping people in need of specialist support without charge.

"We offer groups for the bereaved and grandparents who are the sole carers of their grandchildren, help to those who are unemployed, as well as courses for self-esteem, anger management and confidence building issues.

"It really is a testament to the volunteer counsellors and our supporting partners in this that Clouds Community Counselling exists and people are able to get the specialised help they need for a variety of issues.

"Grassroots Grants meant we could cover our general running costs as we sought further funding, and it has been vital to our survival."

LEGACY

Clouds Community Counselling Service Ltd has helped many Doncaster residents since its inception and with the Grassroots Grant it has been able to maintain its service and bridge the funding gap it was facing. It means people in the area have access to another vital service without charge. Clouds have also recently developed a Young People's Service, which will fill a gap and allow the group to reach out to young people, as well as adults. Clouds are currently working with 50 clients per week, with a team of 10 volunteers.

For more information, contact Sally Chamberlain on: **07482 907053** where you can leave your details and your call will be returned within 24 hours, or visit: www.cloudscounsellingservices.com

Aspergers No Limits

Children and young people in Doncaster who have Aspergers Syndrome were buoyed by a Grassroots Grant that means their support group can keep operating.

Aspergers No Limits is a volunteer-led group that provides support for parents and carers of children and young people diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome, to create a haven for those affected to be able to share their experiences and reduce the anxiety of the daily routine.

Formed in 2007 and based in Armthorpe, the group runs a weekly youth club and members can take part in various activities or just talk to others. The Grassroots Grant of £900 funded games and other electronic media for its service users.

Karena Collins, treasurer of the group, said: "We provide support and information to parents and carers and aim to raise awareness and understanding of the disability. It is important for people to be able to recharge their batteries a little bit when dealing with something so



demanding as a child with Aspergers, and we thank Grassroots Grants for giving us the tools to be able to do this for another year.

“We put on a trip every year as a celebration of the work we’ve done throughout the year and to give the young people and their parents and carers the opportunity to have some free time away from home. It is a good opportunity to meet others socially and share experiences as many people dealing with Aspergers can become isolated and are at risk of depression.”

Aspergers Syndrome is an autistic spectrum disorder characterised by difficulties in social interaction and restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviours and interests.

LEGACY

It means more children with the condition will receive better support from their parents and carers and help to improve their quality of life.

For more information contact Karena Collins (treasurer) on: **01302 320879** or email: **aspergersnolimits@googlemail.com**

Education

The Tavern Cake College

The Tavern Cake College holds weekly cake decorating classes for members of the community to learn new skills in a supportive environment with expert tuition.

The grant was used to buy decorating equipment, coach hire and admission fees to a cake decorating show and to cover the costs of learning from professional tutors. Membership has risen from seven members to 12 as a result.

Janet Swallow, the group’s treasurer said: “The Grassroots Grant has made a massive difference to The Tavern Cake College. By enabling us to purchase new equipment and have professional cake decorators come and take classes, we have increased our membership to what is our current maximum capacity.

“Some of the members have been able to achieve an accredited qualification in Cake Decorating through Doncaster College, which has given our members huge confidence in their abilities and it is something from which we take a great deal of pleasure.



“Members are able to go at their own pace and everyone’s work is encouraged, which increases confidence and self belief. The classes also play an important part in reducing isolation and giving its service users a reason to leave their homes and participate in something that they love doing.”

LEGACY

The Tavern Cake College is bringing more people into the world of cake decorating with expert tuition and professional equipment. It provides an enjoyable hobby and profession in some, and is developing skills that are likely to be passed on to children and grandchildren in the home.

For more information on The Tavern Cake College contact Georgina Webster on: **07504 225575** or email: **alananster2@talktalk.net**

The Just A.S.K. Project

The Just ASK Project was given a Grassroots Grant of £4,900 to teach young people in Mexborough how to grow their own produce.

The Just ASK Project aims to encourage healthy eating, exercise and general well being by involving young people in growing crops.

The group, which was established in 2008, has 300 registered junior members. Grassroots enabled them to deliver five 20 week structured learning sessions to children and young people from local schools.

Additionally, every primary school and both secondary schools in the area have attended the allotment to learn from the Just ASK Project, and even pre-school nurseries have visited the group to learn about horticulture and the importance of healthy eating.

Julie Thompson, from the Just ASK Project, said: ***“The Grassroots Grant enabled us to reach out to so many children in the Mexborough area and the lessons that have been learned have given them life skills that will stay with them forever.*”**

“Some of the schools that have taken part in the project now raise funds for school trips and events by harvesting their crops and selling their produce from their own allotments, which is proving to be a very hands-on way for children to learn horticultural and entrepreneurial skills.”

The Just ASK Project has planned and been involved in community projects at various locations in the Mexborough area over the last three years, including replanting crops at local pubs, making bird boxes and several awareness days.

LEGACY

The Just ASK Project has become financially self-sufficient since the Grassroots Grant and the lessons that have been taught have had a significant effect on the local community.

For more information, contact Julie Thompson at The Just ASK Project on: **01709 585222** or email: **Julie-d1@hotmail.co.uk**



Yorkshire Woodcraft Club

A Grassroots Grant gave a woodcraft club the tools to increase the quality of its output... literally.

Yorkshire Woodcraft Club used the £2,000 grant to buy new tools including lathes and dust extraction equipment, and it has helped them to attract more members.

Ted Meadows, from Yorkshire Woodcraft Club, said: ***“The new tools will enable existing members to have more “lathe time” and allow us to take on new members. This way, the existing members will advance more quickly, thus allowing new members more time to spend on the lathes.***

“We have 35 members of all ages and we are producing some really great pieces. We now have more capacity to enjoy a hands-on learning experience and develop useful skills that will stay with us forever.”

LEGACY

New tools means increased output which is already leading to some members making and in some instances selling, their own products, like walking sticks, dishes and candlesticks.

For more information, contact Ted Meadows on: **01472 887299** or email: **caedfael@aol.com**

Real To Reel Media

A Doncaster filmmaker and musician won a Grassroots Grant to help him provide more creative opportunities for people in the town.

Jim Lockey used a grant of almost £5,000 to buy an imac, carry case, mobile set-up and a camera; all the necessary equipment that he needed to help him enhance Real to Reel Media.

Their aim is to encourage creative self-expression and increase educational opportunities through the mediums of film and music in young people in Doncaster.

Jim, 33, said: “In partnership with Ian Byatt of Rhythm Nation Records, we set up Real to Reel Media in 2008/9, chiefly to get more people interested and to be able to develop some interesting and cool projects”

“It is important, particularly for young people, to be able to engage in the things that they can relate to and music and filmmaking are areas in which we can encourage those creative juices and get a lot of enjoyment out of the whole process.



**Real to Reel
MEDIA**

“It represents an opportunity to develop skills that are hugely valuable to them and increasingly so in modern society.”

Jim has been able to use the Grassroots Grant to enable him to secure additional funding to help Real to Reel Media grow and increase opportunities for Doncaster’s next creative generation.

LEGACY

Young people in Doncaster have the opportunity to learn about a subject that is not necessarily available to them at school and one that they find interesting. It could lead to uncovering the next Steven Spielberg.

For more information contact Jim on: **07725 645328** or email: **info@realtoreelmedia.co.uk**

Environment

Friends of Tickhill Mill Dam

One of Doncaster's most picturesque tourist attractions is thriving after a Grassroots Grant was used to help improve and preserve the area.

Tickhill Mill Dam is widely used in the local community and its beauty and tranquillity are a point of pride for residents.

It also attracts visitors from across Doncaster, the wider Yorkshire county and Lincolnshire as well, meaning increased revenue for the village and its businesses.

The grant of £3,900 was used to restore and galvanise railings that were damaged by recent floods, replace litter bin inners also damaged by the elements with reinforced materials, and restore the information board at the front of the dam.

The funding is also being used to relay the pathway across the top of the dam, which will make the 'top path' easier to use for locals and visitors.

David Jinks, chairman of Friends of Tickhill Mill Dam, said: "Tickhill Mill Dam is an area of huge significance for the local community and it is used daily by a lot of people. It also brings in a lot of tourism to the area and so we want to keep it as nice and as welcoming as possible.

"We are very thankful for Grassroots Grants as we can make the top path useable all year round and also remedy some of the damage that has been inflicted over recent years by adverse weather.

"The friends of Tickhill Mill Dam are very passionate about it and rightly so. We're delighted to have been able to play a part in preserving this wonderful area of natural beauty."



The Society was formed in 2002 to improve and preserve the amenities of the Tickhill Mill Dam. Membership is now more than 80.

LEGACY

Tickhill Mill Dam is an area of natural beauty that is a point of pride for the local community but also a source of revenue for local business through tourism. The improvements made using the Grassroots Grant will ensure this beauty spot will remain beautiful for years to come.

For more information contact David Jinks at: **01302 745987** or **damarjinks@btinternet.com**

Friends of Minney Moor

Fresh flowers, open green spaces, bird and bat boxes; it's all a long way from the neglected ground the Copse area of Minney Moor had become.

This woodland area in Conisbrough had become a magnet for fly-tipping and illegal dumping, and had been neglected for years, but when a group of residents, established the Friends of Minney Moor, and stepped in to begin a preservation project, the Copse began its transformation.

With a Grassroots Grant of £1500, the group brought together the local community to help clear the area of debris, weeds and unwelcome rubbish and planted native bulbs, installed features to attract local wildlife back to the area and developed a path using wood chippings and natural fences.

Ian Catch, chairman of Friends of Minney Moor, said: "We have been absolutely thrilled with the

way the project has brought our community even closer together. We have always been tight knit, but we have got even closer now and we have a common purpose.

"The Grassroots Grant has meant we have been able to transform an eye-sore into an area we can be proud of, and one that can be used by local residents and local groups such as the Scouts who have been a huge help throughout."

LEGACY

From eye-sore to eye-catching green space, an already tight knit community has been brought even closer together and an area of neglect has been transformed into a point of pride for local residents. It has strengthened a community that will benefit from it in the long term.

For more information, contact Ian Catch on: **01709 861202** or email: ian.catch@sky.com



Stainforth Waterside Regeneration Group

Funding from Grassroots Grants meant a local group was able to get their plans for regenerating their local environment off the ground.

Stainforth Waterside Regeneration Group was given £600 to produce concept designs of the area for future development of green space between the banks of the River Don and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal.

The designs were presented to local residents at the annual Stainforth Water Festival in June 2009 and after much consultation begun talks with the local council to make the plans become a reality.



Alan Lee, treasurer of the Stainforth Waterside Regeneration Group, said: "We want to transform and enhance an area in our community from a plot of bare land into something that can be used by local residents and an area that we can be proud of. It will bring a lot to the area and we had a good response when we presented the initial design for consultation.

"It is taking a long time to progress but we are very grateful to Grassroots Grants for giving us the tools to get things moving and off the ground. We're hopeful our plans and hard work will ultimately result in a wonderful project that will bring the community even closer together and benefit our environment."

LEGACY

Transforming an area of bare land into a multi-use green space that will help form an environmental nucleus for the Stainforth community for generations to come.

For more information, contact Alan Lee by email on: swrgalan@tesco.net



Above: Plans for the East Bank Community Garden. Area to be developed to provide both a community resource as well as rich habitat for local wildlife.

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

One of the most significant environmental sites in Doncaster has had the roots of restoration planted by a local group.

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery used a Grassroots Grant of £2,790 to buy tools and landscaping materials to begin the conservation effort of one of the most important sites in the town.

Hyde Park Cemetery, which opened in 1856 is the oldest municipal graveyard in Doncaster and one of the first ever to open in the UK outside of London, had suffered from years of neglect until the group stepped in.

The Reverend Alan Murray, treasurer of Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery, said:

“The aim is to support the conservation and restoration of the cemetery for the long term benefit of the people of Doncaster as an environmental, historical and educational amenity. The Grassroots Grant has literally given us the tools to preserve this wonderful site and give it back to the people of Hyde Park.”

“We want to encourage members of the community by organising various events in the cemetery, like guided heritage walks. We are involved with local schools and pupils come out and get involved with planting seeds and tidying as well.”

Hyde Park holds historical and environmental value for the local community and more than 90 people have already contributed their time and effort to the restoration, which is an ongoing project.

LEGACY

One of the oldest cemeteries in the country, Hyde Park Cemetery value lies not only in its history but also represents a large green space in a built up area that is important to local residents. It has become a haven for wildlife and the restoration project is giving the people of Hyde Park pride in the site. Local school children are learning about its heritage as well as environmental skills and awareness.

For more information on Hyde Park Cemetery or the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery group, visit: www.fohpc.org.uk or contact Reverend Alan Murray on: **01302 365544** or email: revmurray@blueyonder.co.uk



Community

Stainforth Community Resource Centre

A £500 Grassroots Grant used to buy kitchenware at Stainforth Community Resource Centre has led to more residents using the facility for catered events.

“We are fully booked up every day now and the increased ability we have now to provide food as certainly helped a lot,” said Stainforth and Moorends Councillor Ken Keegan, a lead figure on the group’s management committee.

“Our voluntary staff are now better able to provide hot and cold meals for community events, training days, parties and other functions that regularly take place at the centre and so we are becoming increasingly self-sustaining, which is fantastic for the people of Stainforth and those who use the centre.”

Additionally, the Grassroots Grant has led to two more volunteers working at the centre to achieve Basic Food Hygiene qualifications, which will increase their work opportunities in the future.



On average, between 350 and 450 people utilise the Stainforth Community Resource Centre every week for a wide range of activities including sewing clubs, bingo nights, painting, art classes and meetings.

Ken added: ***“We sold out our Halloween and New Year’s Eve parties well in advance this year and it is a testament to the increased level of service we provide.”***

“Over the last 15 years we have turned a dilapidated building into a community facility that residents love using. It has certainly helped us grow together as a community and we’re delighted at the progress made.”

LEGACY

Stainforth Community Resource Centre is now attracting more residents than ever before. It has been transformed into an appealing and accommodating community hub used by a large cross section of people for a wide range of purposes and is now performing on a more sound financial footing.

For more information on Stainforth Community Resource Centre contact Councillor Ken Keegan at: **01302 350862** or email: **Kenneth.keegan@doncaster.gov.uk**

Doncaster German Society

Doncaster German Society took a celebratory trip to twin city Herten in Germany, thanks to a £2,000 Grassroots Grant.

The society took 50 members to the German town in 2009 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning of the towns.

Doncaster German Society prides itself on providing an educational and culturally beneficial service to people in both England and Germany and much has been done to form a bond between the twin towns.

Organiser and former chair Gitty Cowan, who lives in Doncaster, said: ***“We take a great amount of pleasure in our relationships with the people of Herten and we are always learning more about German culture and spreading the word in Doncaster.”***

Doncaster German Society provide assistance to A Level students studying the German language and act as translators for companies and local organisations.

For more information on Doncaster German Society contact Gitty Cowan at:

info@doncastergermansociety.co.uk



Moorends Recycled Teenagers

A dance group for retired people in Doncaster has been given a new lease of life thanks to the Grassroots Grant it received last year.

The wonderfully named Recycled Teenagers, from Moorends, in the east of Doncaster is open to everyone. Its current age range is between 68 to 87 and the group meet on Wednesday afternoons to enjoy sequence dancing.

They received a Grassroots Grant of £1,950, which has been used to cover rent costs at the Winning Post Centre in Moorends where they meet, and transport to and from various dance competitions and outings.

Recycled Teenagers treasurer Mr William Timmins, 76, said:

“It is wonderful that we were able to get this grant as it means we can keep the group going and keep doing what we enjoy to do.

“Most of us are getting on in years so we value our time together and it is just lovely to be able to keep dancing. It makes us happy and gives us something to look forward to every week, and at the same time it is great exercise.

“The dance leaders’ commitment and enthusiasm is so infectious and really helps make our group what it is.”

The group, which currently consists of about 30 members, has travelled to Bridlington and Blackpool to watch national dance competitions this year and the grant has given the Recycled Teenagers a new energy for life.

For more information, please contact
Mr William Timmins on: **01405 814530**



Doncaster Omnibus & Light Railway Society

Its last service in the town was on 14th December 1963 at 7.30pm – and the man playing a key role in its restoration was a passenger on that historic journey.

Doncaster Omnibus and Light Railway Society is in the process of returning the trolley bus to working capacity as a means of transport at the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft, one of only three places in the UK to house these type of vehicles.

And one of the passengers on that last journey, Len Smith, helped the society receive a Grassroots Grant of almost £1,200, which was used to replace the six tyres on the bus and dispose of the old ones.

He said: *“We’ve a proud transport history in Doncaster and it is important that we preserve that part of our heritage as much as possible.*”

“The Grassroots Grant enabled us to replace the tyres of the trolley bus and the next step is to tidy up the bodywork and the re-paint, as well as an overhaul of the mechanical and electrical components, so it can become fully functional as a way of transporting visitors around the museum.”

A series of events are taking place in 2011 as the museum celebrates 100 years of trolley buses in Great Britain.

LEGACY

Helping to restore a significant part of Doncaster’s history and as one of only three visitor centres of it’s like in the UK; it will attract increased tourism to Doncaster.

For more information contact Len Smith at: **07801227938**



Grassroots Grants Panel

The DCDT Grassroots Grants Panel is made up of nine people who live across the Doncaster borough. They come from diverse backgrounds and have one common goal – to give local community groups and projects the opportunity to shine.

Representatives include eight community group members – four from small local groups and four from larger groups – with over-arching views of residents needs, and a board member of the DCDT.

By recruiting volunteers from local groups, some of the Panel members gained a valuable insight into what funders are looking for and how decisions are made, which they were then able to put into practice within their own community projects.

The Panel has worked brilliantly well over the last three years, approving over 200 grant applications, helping enterprise projects to develop and enabling existing community groups to flourish.

Katie Wall, Grants Manager for NDC, said: ***“Our panel members were all local people who care about Doncaster as a whole. They brought with them a wealth of knowledge of both the local area and the needs of Doncaster’s residents, making them the perfect candidates to help others.”***

John Keen, of Care 4 Carers and Grassroots Grants Panel Member, said: ***“Being a part of the grants panel has been a fantastic experience and one we have all found extremely useful.”***

“It has given us the opportunity to get involved in making key decisions, building on our funding and finance experience and also giving us a great foundation to help other projects and groups in the future.”

“It has been extremely rewarding, making a real difference to so many people’s lives across the town.”

SOWING THE SEEDS FOR DONCASTER’S FUTURE

Creating a legacy, enabling longevity, sustaining community spirit – it’s the stamp of a Grassroots Grant!

In July 2008, Grassroots Grants was established to give local groups the means to turn good ideas and intentions into sustainable ventures and community orientated endeavours. The provision of grants ranging from £250 to £5000 enabled groups and organisations to build for the future and continue to provide services for the people of Doncaster.

We have funded over 170 groups across Doncaster across a variety of areas including health, sport, education, art, environmental and general community interests through Grassroots Grants. It has created opportunities, increased skills, supported health and community needs, and given scores of people a new lease of life.

It is a community investment that has gone into small groups which do so much for so many people and for so many different reasons. And now they are more likely to continue into the future. That is the legacy of Grassroots Grants, it’s what we set out to achieve.

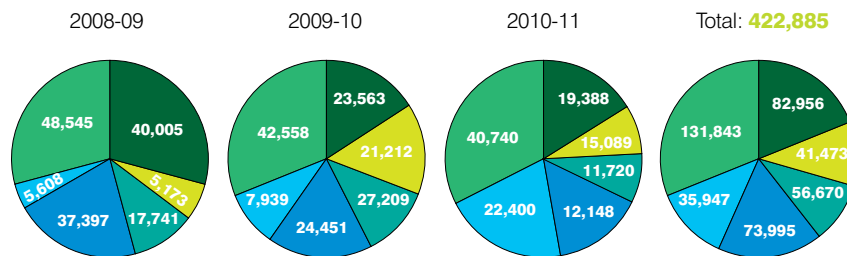
Stats for Grassroots Grants in Doncaster

	Amount Awarded
2008-09	£121,909
2009-10	£147,750
2010-11	£153,226
Total	£422,885

Amount of funding approved in each area of Doncaster

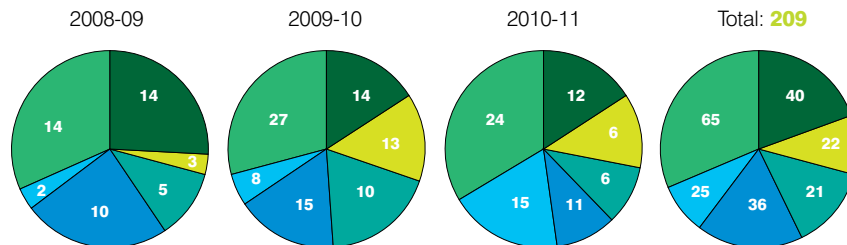
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
North	40,005	23,563	19,388	82,956
South	5,173	21,212	15,089	41,473
East	17,741	27,209	11,720	56,670
West	37,397	24,451	12,148	73,995
Central	5,608	7,939	22,400	35,947
Borough wide	48,545	42,558	40,740	131,843
				422,885

Number of different groups funded	173
Number of grants provided	209



Number of approved projects in each area of Doncaster

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
North	14	14	12	40
South	3	13	6	22
East	5	10	6	21
West	10	15	11	36
Central	2	8	15	25
Borough wide	14	27	24	65
				209



The logo is centered on a background of green grass. It consists of a white circle with a thin grey border. Inside this circle are two concentric rings: an inner light green ring and an outer dark green ring. The text 'grassroots grants' is centered within the white circle. 'grassroots' is in a dark green, lowercase sans-serif font. Below it is a dark green wavy line that starts under the 's' and ends under the 't'. 'grants' is in a grey, lowercase sans-serif font.

grassroots
grants

Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Supported by HM Government Office for Civil Society