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**BERKSHIRE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

## **News from Berkshire Community Foundation**

**Winter 2016**

### **Welcome from Berkshire Community Foundation**

A warm welcome to contacts old and new to our Winter 2016 newsletter. We are pleased to bring you the latest update of our activities at the BCF. This month's quick links are:

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Grants](#)

### **A Life Less Lonely in Berkshire**

We have now launched '[A Life Less Lonely](#)', the campaign is aiming to raise £75,000 for Berkshire based charities and community groups doing vital work in helping to support the rising number of adults and children all over the county are struggling with loneliness and isolation.

Loneliness can – and does – affect anyone, of any age. Our recent '[Vital Signs report](#)' showed that those suffering with loneliness and isolation is worsening across Berkshire.

Jonty Hearnden, TV's antique expert, is supporting the campaign. "I'm delighted to support Berkshire Community Foundation's campaign. Loneliness is something that's seldom discussed, yet a great number of adults and children are struggling with feeling isolated every single day. It's a really complex issue and takes its toll on the body and mind. But there are ways to overcome loneliness and there are many groups across Berkshire who can really help. Please join me in supporting this crucial campaign."

People can [donate online](#), hold their own fundraising events and [click here](#) for more information.

## Gerry Lejeune OBE appointed as BCF Chief Executive

Since July 2015 Gerry Lejeune OBE has acted as Interim CEO of Berkshire Community Foundation. We are delighted to announce that she has accepted an offer from the Trustee Board and her position as Chief Executive became permanent on 1 January 2016.

Gerry is well-known and respected in the voluntary sector in Berkshire and had previously been CEO of the award-winning Berkshire East & South Bucks Women's Aid, now known as the Dash Charity. She took over leadership of the Slough-based charity in 2003 and transformed the charity in the 10 years she spent as CEO supporting women who were fleeing domestic violence and was recognised for her work in 2011 when she received an OBE for her services to support local victims of domestic abuse.

In 2014 she became involved with Berkshire Community Foundation, leading the relaunch of our dedicated children's charity fund 'Give A Child A Chance' supporting children, families and community groups working with children in Berkshire, particularly those with physical or learning disabilities, children with psychological and behavioural issues, and those living in care and areas of deprivation, before taking over as interim CEO when former Andrew Middleton stood down in July 2015.

[To find out more, click here.](#)

## The Mohawks Brotherhood raise £750 for Give A Child Chance



The Mohawks Brotherhood, a biker club based in Berkshire, have recently raised £750 for Give A Child Chance.

Speaking of behalf of the Mohawks Brotherhood, the club's president stated: "We are delighted to have raised this amount of money for a local charity that we hold very close to our hearts. Our fundraising event speaks of the generosity of the biker community as a whole. We are a small number of people who ride motorcycles and enjoy the close camaraderie and being there for each other. We are part of Berkshire's community and, for us, being part of the community also involves being generous and supporting those closest to us who are most vulnerable and in real need. We are grateful to The King's Head pub in Thatcham for supporting our event and to all of those who contributed to raising this fantastic amount of money. We look forward to continue supporting our local charities in future".

## Whistl Fundraising Day

Thank you to the team at Whistl (Doordrop Media), who raised £124.92 for Berkshire Community Foundation Give a Child a Chance at their Halloween Fundraising Event.



## The Cookham Ball 2015

Saturday 21st November at Sir Bernard Miller Centre, Odney Club, Cookham

Give a Child a Chance was very grateful to receive a £500 donation from the Cookham Ball.

Gerry Lejeune (CEO) attended with the team at Frontline. Below is a note from the organisers:



The Cookham "Las Vegas" Ball went amazingly well, selling out with 400 guests attending. With great support from the Cookham's guest of honour, Rt Hon Theresa May and also attendance from Major General Angus Fay.

The Vegas Showgirls brought the Vegas glamour and feathers, everybody made such an effort to dress up. Joined by Elvis and Cookham's owns Rat Pack who received a standing ovation!

A Magician, roulette, black jack, Brick in the Wall and an auction all went towards raising fund: for local charities. The main beneficiaries being the Alexander Devine Hospice Trust and Elizabeth House, Thames Air Ambulance, Rendezvous, Give a Child a Chance and others.

## Thames Valley Business Magazine Awards

BCF were delighted to be this years Charity Partner at the 2015 Thames Valley Business Magazine Awards (#TVBMA). The glittering black-tie dinner was held at the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre at the Madejski Stadium and raised £795.



The Thames Valley Business Magazine Awards is open to every company in the Thames Valley area and recognises not only profitability, innovation and employment but also the

contribution made to the local economic community and the provision of support to culture and charities in the region.

## Berkshire Community Foundation 30th Birthday grants

BCF is celebrating its **30th Birthday**, that's 30 years of giving in Berkshire and we will continue to do so. There are areas of Berkshire where there is a range of social problems, as highlighted in our Vital Signs, and there is a need to prioritise programmes that seek to inspire Young People. BCF Trustees have recently granted 30th Birthday Awards to:

**Ufton Court awarded £30,000** towards raising aspirations and achievements through outdoor adventure – working with children from the Britwell area of Slough and Claycots School.

**Adviza awarded £30,000** towards its Energise Innovation Project – which addresses the root causes of young people becoming NEET (not in education, training or employment). The project works with 14-15 year olds who are identified as having on average three to four risk-of-NEET indicators, including poor school attendance, disruptive or antisocial behaviour, family or mental health issues and low educational attainment.

**£30,000 awarded** in grants of £10,000 each to three groups working with young people across **Berkshire – Berkshire Youth, Get Berkshire Active and Citizenship Foundation.**



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**30 YEARS  
OF GIVING**

*"The impact Energise has made on the lives of vulnerable young people has been extraordinary and this funding model has allowed us to focus on activities that work and make a difference."*  
*said Katharine Horler, CEO of Adviza*

## Boost for Thames Valley Kings Wheelchair Basketball Club

Thames Valley Kings are delighted to have received a grant of £9,000 for 3 new wheelchairs. The grant was awarded by Berkshire Community Foundation, through a donation by the David Brownlow Charitable Foundation.

This sports club based in Thatcham, offers one of the few opportunities for people with physical disabilities to participate in sport; enabling them to improve their social skills and confidence.

The new wheelchairs will be used by participants in both the junior and the adult leagues, for at least 10 years. The grant will enable the club to continue to survive and remain part of the British Wheelchair Basketball league, which has helped develop the player's capability significantly.

## We need your help...

### Feedback

We need your feedback! [Click here](#) to tell us what you think of our new e-newsletter.

### Share

[Please forward](#) this to anyone you think may be interested in our latest news.

[Donate](#)

[Apply for a grant](#)

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Remember we have moved to our new home in Green Park, Reading. Please make sure that your records have been updated with our new address detailed below.

Berkshire Community Foundation  
100 Longwater Avenue  
Green Park, Reading  
Berkshire RG2 6GP  
0118 930 3021  
[info@berkshirecf.org](mailto:info@berkshirecf.org)

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