

SUSSEX GIVING

DONOR REPORT

East Brighton Trust

The East Brighton Trust Fund was set up in 2016, making grants of up to £500 available to not-for-profit organisations, including charities, community and voluntary groups, undertaking projects or events in East Brighton. In 2020, the maximum grant amount was raised to £1,000. Grants from your fund total £134,387. The feedback here is taken directly from the monitoring and evaluation reports sent to us by grantees.

RAW Youth Club at New Life Church - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

RAW is a youth club run by local residents who are volunteers and members of New Life Community Church Brighton. Your funding was used to run a weekly youth group for 11-17 years olds. All beneficiaries live in the East Brighton area and attend the club regularly. The photograph shows the groups outing to Pizza Hut.



The difference your grant has made

The project enabled youth and volunteers to experience events they otherwise would not have had the opportunity to experience. The Christmas trip was a highlight and a reward for regular attendance and good behaviour for the autumn term. The other two outings were greatly appreciated because it meant the group could physically meet up after months of being apart, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This did wonders for improving social cohesion and mental health.

Salaam Football Club - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

Salaam FC is a volunteer-run community football club for disadvantaged boys and girls aged 10-16 years, living in Brighton & Hove. They provide weekly football training sessions for 57 children, competing in the Junior Premier League. They also organise group outings twice per year. The photograph shows the group at an outing to Thorpe Park.



The difference your grant has made

The regular football sessions have allowed the children to take part in healthy, physical activities to keep them fit and active, to feel accepted, make friends and widen their social networks. Members learn new skills and develop existing skills, as well as building self-confidence. This also impacted on their mental health and well-being, improving behaviour and attitudes both within the home and at school. Feedback from members: "Since I joined Salaam FC, I made a lot of friends"; "I feel accepted in the team"; "It helped me to interact more". Parents have reported that they feel less worried about their children being socially isolated.

We have observed improvements in some of the children's behaviours. For example, one of our children had very challenging behaviour when he joined in 2017. He was extremely disruptive, both at the club and at school, and initially struggled to make friends. However, we have continued to support and encourage him, providing guidance and clear boundaries. We are happy to report that his behaviour and attitude have really improved, and he is now quick to volunteer his help during sessions and has made friends.



Trust for Developing Communities - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

Trust for Developing Communities delivers community-led solutions to tackling inequality in Brighton & Hove. They support excluded communities, people from deprived neighbourhoods and young people - to build on their strengths, identify issues and deliver solutions. Your funding was used to improve the outside area of the Wellsbourne Health Centre in Whitehawk, with seats, improved access and signage to the Hub. This provides a space

for the community to enjoy gardening, growing plants and herbs and provides a safe space for children to play. This photograph shows the group building the community garden.

The difference your grant has made

One outcome of the project is the newly decorated planters that bring colour to the community garden area. Paul Jarvis wrote: “Wellsbourne Healthcare: A big thank you to the Trust for Developing Communities, artist Ian Leaver-Blaxstone and all the young people involved for their fabulous work in the Thursday art workshops. Even though the rain slowed us down at times, we still managed to get a lot done and had some fun, too. Looking forward to more collaborations in the future.” We also caught up with young



people that we hadn't seen for a while, due to lockdown, providing youth workers with the opportunity to do welfare checks. We provided a safe, social space and a creative activity that was open to all young people. We made some new contacts, as a result of attracting attention from passers-by and on social media. Hopefully, those new young people will continue to come to sessions.

The Oromo Community in Brighton & Hove - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

The Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove is a community group for Oromo refugees, run entirely by member volunteers. They provide health, social and educational activities for members, including a weekly Saturday school for children. They aim to reduce isolation, build confidence, and support members to develop and maintain positive identities as Oromo British people. Your funding was used to run a sewing project for the Oromo women.

The difference your grant has made

“The grant has made a massive difference to us. Firstly, it meant that we could make things for our homes, choosing our own fabrics and designs, rather than always just having to buy what is cheapest. We have made cushion covers, bedsheets and other furnishings. We have also repaired and altered our families' clothes. This might sound like a small thing but it means we are economically contributing to our family and household. This is really important for us as it gives us the confidence and self-esteem to have a say in our lives. It is also important because our families are all living on low incomes and many have lost work due to Covid-19, meaning we can't afford to buy items such as new clothes.”

Mindful Warriors Brighton - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

Mindful Warriors is a social enterprise that works to increase the physical and mental wellbeing of the young people and communities they work with, by delivering high quality yoga and mindfulness

programmes. Your grant funded their 'Yoga for Schools' programme, taking yoga to six schools in the Moulsecoomb area, both primary and secondary. The photograph shows the yoga session run at Moulsecoomb Primary School.



The difference your grant has made

"We received lots of positive feedback from the children, who participated in the sessions. One quote from our student feedback form: 'I liked when we were doing the tree. I love yoga and I am going to do it at home'. One teacher wrote: 'Very positive - the calm approach makes a huge difference to the children - great understanding of needs. Pleasantly surprised, lots of engagement from a typically passive group. A huge thank you - we needed this!'. Building relationships with our schools to continue engaging beneficiaries as a trusted service provider, has been really important in the current Covid-19 pandemic. We were able to reach out to the schools and offer our most recent service of yoga and mindfulness video lessons for children. Ruth Glaser, teacher at City Academy, Whitehawk shared: 'Thank you so much for this resource. During the lockdown, I have been using the Mindful Warriors resources that you gave us last time, and the children are still enjoying it and some of them are practising at home.' We invited the Mayor of Brighton to join some of our sessions, which helped raise the profile of the schools and offered the opportunity for the children to practise yoga with the Mayor and ask her questions."



Exploring Senses CIC - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

Exploring Senses is a not-for-profit community arts organisation, providing combined arts, crafts and digital participatory activities that improve participants health, well-being, skills and knowledge. They encourage collaboration, helping to reduce social isolation. Your funding

provided a weekly Wednesday Exploring Senses MakerLab session at Brighton Youth Centre for young people aged 13-19 years.

The difference your grant has made

The young people who participated in the 3D pen session were very excited with the activities we provided. Participants have repeatedly engaged in weekly sessions, learned new skills and gained knowledge. They bonded as a group and felt less isolated, which improved well-being and mental health. They also reported an increase in confidence and self-worth. Many of the students who participated do not really enjoy school, as they are less academic and instead enjoy creative learning, activities and processes. The 3D pen session is a highlight of the week for many participants and it is a pleasure to see how much joy an afterschool club can provide young people. Many of the young people who attend the sessions are from families on low income and receive free school meals.

Kemp Town Gardening and Community Group - £500

What activities were funded by the grant?

Kemp Town Gardening and Community Group (KTGCG) received funding to support their award-winning hanging baskets for the area. Your grant contributed to the cost of the baskets and flowers. The photograph below shows KTGCG's silver prize winning entrant to Brighton & Hove City in Bloom 2019.



The difference your grant has made

The hanging baskets added a decorative addition to the streets in the summer period. They encourage neighbours to take care of their own gardens and planting around the trees, in the each street. It also supported our own fundraising event, encouraging residents to support the group, to cover the remaining balance of the hanging baskets.



The Sunflower Group - £425

What activities were funded by the grant?

The Sunflower Group was set up in September 2014 by Amaze, in partnership with the Trust for Developing Communities. Now their own constituted group, they run a monthly coffee morning at Moulsecoomb Primary School, as a safe space for parents and carers to support each other. Your funding was used to organise a summer outing on a boat along the Brighton coast, for families who have children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs.

The difference your grant has made

The boat trip provided an opportunity for the people to spend quality time with their families, something that can be difficult if you have a child with special needs. It was fun and relaxing (despite a couple of people being seasick!). The children enjoyed meeting each other and making new friends. Many of the children hadn't been on a boat trip before so it gave them a new experience and helped to expand their world, something that is important but can be challenging for children with special needs. Parents found the trip was stress free as everything had been organised for them, which improved their well-being. The trip also gave siblings an opportunity to meet other children in their position, who understand the difficulties they face having a disabled sibling. Everybody left the boat happy, smiling and a bit wet and bedraggled! Thank you for giving us the funding for this trip. It was amazing to see our beautiful city from a different perspective.

Sussex Community Foundation raises funds for and gives grants to smaller charities and community groups across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We make it easy for Sussex people to give money to local causes close to their hearts and ensure that those donations reach the people that need them. Our endowment fund enables our donors to benefit Sussex people for generations to come.

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