



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission



THE COMMUNITY FUND MAY 2022 UPDATE

The Community Fund has funded 26 projects so far this academic year, awarding grants to groups across Cambridge and to Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission for a huge range of activities, including a disability-friendly football team, a youth choir, and enabling landscaping for a local church café. Below are snapshots of some of the projects,

In late 2021, the Community Fund approved a grant to partner with Cambridge City Council to support children of low income families to take part in sport and physical activity. This came about thanks to the notable behavioural and wellbeing benefits which some local children were enjoying after taking part in boxing classes. Inspired by the possibilities - and aware that without external support, many low-income families cannot afford the cost of classes - the Active Lifestyles team launched their Grassroots Activities Grants. This allows children to take part in a grassroots physical activity of their choice, potentially until they would be eligible for other schemes such as the 'Future Champions' programme. The Community Fund has partnered with the Council to fund three years of the scheme, as discussed in *Cambridge Matters* magazine.



So far, the Council has received an enormous number of applications to the scheme, 57 in total. The children will be taking part in activities from street dance to tennis to gym, with an average award of just £140 all that is required to make it possible. Four of the children have a disability and one is a looked after child; every family relies on a form of income support, and all but two children receive free school meals.

"We have been amazed at the demand for the grant and it shows there is real need in the city."

- Helen, Active Lifestyles Officer at Cambridge City Council

Rowan is a local charity providing an arts centre and forest school for adults with learning disabilities, with 84 students currently. In February, they held their annual art exhibition sponsored by the Community Fund, featuring 150 canvases from their own students, local school pupils, and children at The Leys. For all those who took part, it was a brilliant platform to showcase their talent, and over £5,000 was raised from the sale of 75 canvases, to be re-invested in Rowan's work.

We are delighted that in 2023, The Leys will be providing a venue for the exhibition free of charge, as part of the Community Fund's commitment to practical as well as financial support.



In late 2021, the Community Fund received a request to help launch a new Scout group in Cherry Hinton. The group would show particular care to be inclusive of all members of the local community by offering young people the chance to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which is not always offered in schools or can be prohibitively expensive for families. The DofE Awards aim to build confidence, resilience, and team-working ability, as well as encouraging volunteering in the local community, building fitness, and teaching outdoor skills. Two grants from the Community Fund have allowed the group to purchase expedition equipment, from tents to Trangias to waterproof maps. The first expedition was 7-8 May and went very well, with the group enjoying beautiful weather and learning a lot.