

Community Link October 2020

Voluntary Forum – Volunteer Fair – Supporting organisations – Challenges – Training – Projects – Community Centre Focus – Age Friendly – Bumper Funding Focus – Connect! – Community Catalyst

Cherwell Voluntary Forum

“closing, online, support, isolation, technology, help, wellbeing, concerning, confident”

Working with organisations from across Cherwell including Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), Citizens Advice and Community First Oxfordshire the recent Cherwell Voluntary Forum has highlighted the words associated with the fears, challenges and opportunities during lockdown that resonate in both personal and working space – they impact on us all. And they impact on our friends, neighbours, residents, customers – customers who may be struggling with their health, low income, confidence, anxiety and loneliness even in the best of times.

It is straight forward to use challenging to describe the current situation and that of the last few months but the depth of issues caused during adversity has come up against a highly adaptive voluntary sector that has delivered across a connected local network in an admirable way. That delivery though has caused a major shift in business plans and development and has had a massive impact on funding and shift of

normal processes designed to help those most in need. It has not been easy in all cases and moving forward together we hope to find the opportunities to make it work for residents.

Virtual Volunteer Fair



In unison with the Voluntary Forum and to support and work with the challenges of 2020, September also saw the hosting of a Virtual Volunteer Fair

Working with Volunteer Connect we were able to support groups to promote volunteering. We focused on employees who volunteered during lockdown and who were furloughed and who wanted to carry on but would not have the hours available as before. The Virtual Volunteer Fair saw nearly 60 residents attend and a live website will continue to support local organisations and volunteers across Cherwell:

<https://sites.google.com/cano.org.uk/cherwellvolunteerfair/home>

Training

Good Food Oxford

During November **Good Food Oxford** will be offering online discuss and learn sessions about Food Poverty. Via Eventbrite – please book on to one of several events below in November

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/food-poverty-training-oxfordshire-uk-registration-124085700671>

Training and Workshops

Working with OCVA we were able to offer without charge both 'Finding Funders' and 'Trustee Training' which was supported as part of the Cherwell Voluntary Forum.

Usually we offer several opportunities and are working hard to offer suitable alternatives with our partners. We will be exploring a full suite of online training with OCVA with a view to roll this out toward December 2020.



Zoom and Microsoft Teams

We all managed to log in and use Zoom and Microsoft Teams over the last few months but is it now time to understand more about these online tools?

- Effectively running an online meeting
- Collaboration Tools
- Confident working

Zoom offers free live training and recording training to support:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360029527911>

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials?_ga=2.38826211.1377741076.1601980942-2106173840.1601980942

Microsoft Teams offer free instructor led online training and on-demand via YouTube:

<https://microsoftadoption.eventbuilder.com/GetStartedTeams>
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXPr7gfUMmKzR7_jXN5s886apYoHNC3Xk

Making Every Contact Count (MECC)

MECC is an approach to help people change health related behaviour. It uses the millions of day-to-day interactions that we have with others to support them in making positive steps towards improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Contact the Healthy Place Shaping Team at Cherwell District Council to get booking links and to receive further information about MECC.

healthyplaceshaping@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Test and Trace – NHS



Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

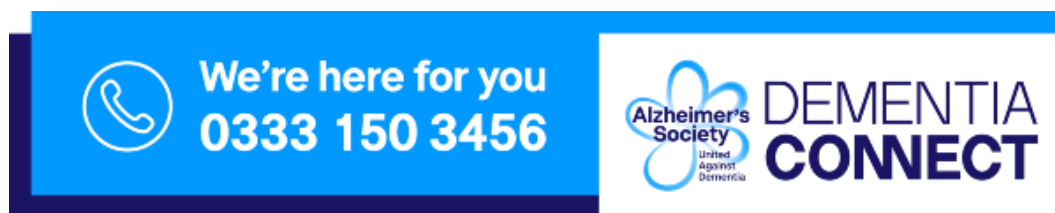
Projects and services



Cherwell District Council and key partners in the district are excited to launch our **Connect!** project in Banbury, with the aim to connect people via digital means. At the moment this service is just in Banbury as a pilot but moving forward it is hoped that this will be rolled out across the wider Cherwell area.

Connect! Booking is via the Royal Voluntary Service with partners including Citizens Advice (North Oxon & South Northants), Banbury Madni Masjid, Activate, Age UK (Oxfordshire) and Cornhill Companions.

Please see attached leaflet for further information.



Dementia Support Work – Dementia support workers offer information and practical guidance to help people understand dementia, cope with day-to-day challenges and the importance of getting financial affairs in order and prepare for the future. They offer support face to face (when

government guidelines on Covid-19 allow), over the phone, by email, or in writing.

Virtual Singing for the Brain - Singing for the Brain is a social activity for people with dementia and their carers, enabling them to sing in a stimulating and safe environment.

Dementia Connect: Alzheimer's Society's personalised support service, means you're only one click or call away from the dementia support you need. It's free, easy to access, and puts you in touch with the right support, from local help to phone and online advice. Helping make things easier.

[Alzheimer's Society](#) – Available to all, searchable website with facility to order paper version of factsheets

[Dementia Talking Point](#) - Dementia Talking Point is a helpful online community where anyone who is affected by dementia can receive valuable support. It's free, open day or night, and can be accessed online.

If you would like to discuss any of these services in more detail please call 01235 531989.

Community Catalyst

Community Catalyst is working with Oxfordshire County Council to design and deliver the new Community Enterprise Project which runs from September 2020 for 2 years. The project aims to work with local people who want to develop small enterprises offering highly personal homecare and help at home as well as support in the community to older people and people with learning disabilities. The project will cover the Cherwell District area where increasing the number and range of homecare and community support options available to local people is seen as a real priority. Community Catalysts will try hard to build on things that already work well and to use learning from the project to affect local system and culture change – working hard to improve the way that health and care works for everyone in Oxfordshire.

Contact: a.wingad@communitycatalysts.co.uk 07341425126

Website: www.communitycatalysts.co.uk

Facebook: <https://fb.me/CommCatsAnita>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CommCatsOxford>



Bicester Festival

Supporting the growth of a creative Bicester this year's festival has making, creative and taking part at its fiery heart. The 3 day event saw an average of 2700 residents interacting online.

<https://www.bicesterfestival.org/festival-2020/>

International Day of Older Persons

Established in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly October 1st is marked at International Day of Older Persons. Events to coincide with this were held in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington to provide support to older residents with information on trading standards, community health, transport advice and much more. The first day saw over 100 goodie packs given away at Banbury's friendly Thursday market.



Electric Blanket Testing

Safety in the home is a priority and this event brings together Trading Standards, Oxfordshire Fire Service, Age UK (Oxfordshire) and Cherwell District Council to test electric blankets. This year will see blankets collected and returned. The event runs through to 23rd October.

<http://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/electric-blanket-testing>





Street Tag

Residents in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington are now able to take part in a digital game of discovery which encourages walking and cycling around the district!

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/news/article/755/free-app-launched-turning-cherwell-into-virtual-playground>

Community Arts

<http://www.settlementsculptures.co.uk/>

2019 saw the installation of 'The Horse' at Hanwell View in Banbury and late **September 2020** saw the installation of 'Medieval Woman', the first of 3 cruck arches. Find out more about the research into these pieces



Community Centres

Hardwick Community Centre Working with its resident sports teams to promote health and wellbeing to the wider Hardwick estate in areas focusing on men's health and wellbeing. And in 2021 hosting a 'meet the player' social event to support community engagement, fundraising and volunteering with the community centre.



West Bicester Community Hall

Mark and the team will be supporting Year 6 pupils from Kings Meadow school with wellbeing, socializing and communication in safe environment with a program of activity and creation.

Langford Village Community Centre

A community project in has seen the introduction of a beautiful sensory and environment learning garden for the users of their centre at Nightingale Place in Bicester.



Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association (HPRCDA)

Making neighbours feel part of their community and welcoming new residents is at the heart of an inclusive community. Ensuring all residents have equal access to information HPRCDA continue to publish 'Valley News' in paper and online format.

The above projects are made possible by the enthusiasm and passion of volunteers and fundraising. Financial support from Cherwell District Council has been provided.

Most community centres are now up and running but many changes have had to take place to work with the government guidelines. Volunteers have gone all out to support residents in the transition to a socially distanced community centre that is safe and once again welcoming. Many adaptations regarding sports, aerobics, guides, cubs, karate and much more have had to happen. Thank you to all volunteers! A very tough job.

For a list of all community centres in the district please go to:

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/directory/30/community-centres-and-residents-associations>

**Covid-19 guidance for Community Centres and Village Halls – updated
1st October**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

Community centres are in need of support locally and we would encourage signposting to them for volunteering, joint working and collaboration on community projects.

Age Friendly Pledge – Officially Launched on 1st October



Sir Tony Baldry and Mrs. Amanda Ponsonby MBE launched the pledge with an exchange of scrolls.

The Age Friendly Banbury pledge has been co-produced and agreed with senior residents at various events, and includes:

- being welcoming and friendly;
- considering easy access for all;
- making spaces welcoming and safe;
- promoting and making available facilities such as toilets, extra seating;
- being able to signpost individuals to information /services and opportunities.

Age Friendly Banbury welcome contact from individuals or organisations who wish to join the project to receive updates and information.

bee.myson@oxfordshire.org

¹Goodie packs were stored for more than 72 hours and handled with gloves prior to the event

Funding/grants directory

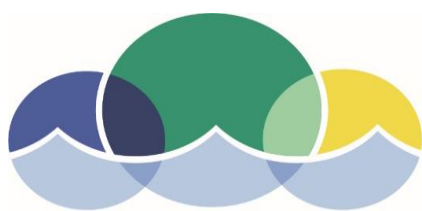
Good cause Community Grant – **NEW for October!**

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/good-cause-grant>

The grants are designed to support partners with revenue or capital projects that satisfy one or more of our '[Healthy, resilient and engaged communities](#)' funding priorities. Projects must demonstrate additionality to existing activities, the grant is not available for "business as usual" costs.

This funding programme is specifically for groups who have signed up on the Cherwell Community Lottery website as a good cause and have sold tickets by the closing date of **5:00pm on Tuesday, 1 December**. Other groups are not eligible and will be rejected on that basis.

Grants of up to £1,000 will be made available for groups who score most strongly against the evaluation criteria and against each other. We reserve the right to offer a grant of less than that requested if there is a number of equally scoring applications in order to spread the finite funding budget of £10,000 for this round.



**Cherwell
lottery**

SPARK Grant funding for Community Projects – Bicester and Kidlington

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1262/spark-funding>

Capital Infrastructure Grant

The Capital Infrastructure Grant 19/20 saw over £75, 000 go to groups applying for funding with the balance being carried over to the current year 20/21 which has seen £88, 636.44 support projects in the Cherwell District.

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/118/communities/290/community-grants/2>

Covid-19 Councillor Priority Fund – closing January 2021

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/Coronavirus-grant>

Countywide

https://oxfordshire.org/grants-2020/covid-19-small-grants/?dm_i=1OSY,6ZPXT,1RQ3EM,S602P,1

<https://ocva.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-information-and-support-across-oxfordshire-for-voluntary-community-groups/funding-sources-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Government grants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vcse-health-and-wellbeing-fund-applications-2020-to-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-support-for-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-vcse-organisations-to-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-in-new-grants-to-boost-recovery-of-small-businesses>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-can-claim-the-job-retention-bonus-from-15-february-2021> (not open until February 2021 but where staff were furloughed and retained please read)

Selected grants/funding sources (closing dates from October onwards)

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/comic-relief-apply-for-a-covid-19-community-grant/>

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/covid-19/learn-about-applying-for-emergency-funding-in-england>

[The Waste and Resources Action Programme \(WRAP\)](#)

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/tackling-loneliness-programme/>

<https://www.ahpn.org.uk/grants>

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/the-naafi-fund/#application-process>

https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/news-article/bame-infra-fund?dm_i=1OSC,6Y2AZ,CFOVZ1,RXXTZ,1

<https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-support/social-investment/>

<https://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-partnerships/programmes/adopting-innovation>

<https://www.allchurches.co.uk/>

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/armed-forces-covenant-fund-force-for-change-programme/>

<https://www.near-neighbours.org.uk/small-grants>

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

<https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/tesco-community-grants/>

<https://www.morrisonfoundation.com/latest-news/covid-19/>

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19>

<https://www.ssen.co.uk/RCF/England/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/campaigns/coronavirus-mental-health-response-fund/>

<https://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx>

<https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network>

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/pitch-preparation-fund>

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds>

Organisational support

We encourage you to be part of that conversation by continuing to link with the groups below and consider membership and support:

[Community First Oxfordshire](#)

[Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action \(OCVA\)](#)

[Oxfordshire Community Foundation](#)

[Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northants](#)

[Charity Mentors Oxfordshire](#)

Council Services – keeping up to date

Guidance for business/organisations

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/4/business/675/covid-19-guidance-for-businesses>

Wellbeing links and activities

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/Activity-and-wellbeing-hub>

Oxfordshire County Council

Support including Schools and social care services arrangements

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19>

Wellbeing Team: 01295 221980

Paul.tysoe@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or wellbeing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk