



Autumn newsletter

Debbie Calverley updates us about how HCF grants awarded in 2022 have benefitted the community. And she'd love to hear from you if you know of any other village projects that might qualify for a bit of help.

Hambleton Community Fund (HCF) awards small grants towards village projects for the benefit of the whole community. A year after the making of the awards, the Fund's umbrella organisation, the Community Foundation for Surrey, asks each successful applicant for an end-of-project report. The following are excerpts from feedback provided on HCF grants awarded in 2022.

HCF grants rarely cover the complete cost of any project so other sources of funding, including generous grants from individual villagers and proceeds from Hambleton Festivals, are equally acknowledged.

First up is the Hambleton Cricket Club which received a grant towards the costs of scarifying, seeding and installing vertical draining of the out-field. It reported that "the draining of the pitch is much quicker and more efficient, resulting in fewer cricket matches and training sessions having to be cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch. It also helps other users of the space who undertake various activities on and around the pitch." These users include regular fitness sessions, village fetes and festivals.



Then comes the grant made to Hambleton Village Hall to support the installation of a permanent cinema system. "Being able to hold cinema nights at the Hall is a great asset to the village ... people are able to enjoy a film in their local community which minimises the need to travel and brings the community together socially ... at only £5 a ticket, it also means that, in times of financial hardship, it is within the reach of most people". The cinema system has already been used for regular film nights, for a mini film festival, for a village society AGM and for a private children's party. This all increases Hall usage – and therefore revenue which goes towards maintenance and improvements.



A third recipient of a grant in 2022 was St Peter's Church, to help with the installation of an audio-visual (AV) system. "This has greatly enhanced worship in the church by eradicating sound blind spots; providing an AV feed to the church room for those running the Sunday Children's Clubs; and providing an overflow for big services such as special events – including weddings and funerals. It has also enabled reliable, simultaneous live streaming to YouTube. Since covid we still have vulnerable people unable to attend church so we regularly get between 30 and 40 views on our live stream. The system is also useful for those unable to attend weddings and funerals, enabling them to have access to the services."



Last but by no means least, Hambleton Village Shop which needed to replace its large chiller and chest freezer. "The grant was used to buy refrigeration equipment for our local volunteer-run village shop, deli and post office. The existing large chiller and chest freezer were both very old: they were becoming unreliable and very inefficient and were costing a small fortune to keep working. The old chiller unit had no doors to help keep the dairy, meat and other perishables at the required temperature – and it was therefore doubly inefficient. The new unit changed all of that: it's quieter, has clear glass doors on the front, both to reduce energy consumption and make the whole situation more attractive; and it's far more inviting to shoppers and those stocking the unit. The same applies to the freezer unit: the new one is more efficient to run and it doesn't ice up or generate excessive heat in the shop as the old unit did."



Two grants have already been awarded in 2023. However, if you know of any potentially worthy projects within the village that might benefit from a grant of up to £2,000, please get in touch by email: hambletoncommunityfund@gmail.com