

Welcome!

Happy New Year and welcome to the **BIG Bolton Fund** newsletter.

Your donation to the fund is greatly appreciated and is helping to build a resource for community activity that will give long-term help to people in Bolton.

We wanted to use this as an opportunity to let you know how your donation has been helping and how the fund has been growing. In the past year we have come to the end of the three-year **Grassroots Challenge** where every donation we received was doubled by the government. During this period, **The BIG Bolton Fund** has grown from the initial £25,000 donation from **Bolton Council** to stand at £145,000 today. This has laid the foundations for a fund which can be invested to provide grants for community projects which make a difference to the lives of Boltonians.

Building this fund is a long term project and we at **Bolton CVS** will be assessing various options in 2012 to see how it can best be developed further.

Once again we'd like to say a big thank you for your ongoing contribution, which has enabled the fund to grow as it has so far.

News & Awarded Grants

■ Cricket sessions get young people active

Ghosia Community Youth Voice had a grant of £1250 to organise cricket sessions for young people from Rumworth during the school holidays. Participants have been introduced to a new sport and got regular exercise from the sessions. It has encouraged them to think about what they do to be healthy. Many have improved their skills and been signposted to local cricket clubs where they can further develop.



■ Writers bring smiles to residential homes

Harwood and Bradshaw Writers used a grant to buy equipment which they have used in performing songs and poetry in residential homes around Bolton.



We caught up with them at Southlands in Brightmet and it was great to see the residents joining in! They really enjoyed the chance to have a social activity with other residents at the place where they are living.

■ Volunteers reach out to court users

Nexus Community Links have been working in **Bolton Magistrates Court** to establish a helpdesk for defendants and their families. The desk is staffed by volunteers and the grant from us helped to train more people to do this.

They have been successful in pointing people in the direction of services which can help them deal with the issues that are affecting their lives, reaching them at a time when they are likely to really need it.



Music event goes off with a Rock-It



Rock It Collective had a grant to pay for training sessions for young people to improve their music skills and gain Arts Awards qualifications. As part of this they organised an outdoor gig and community day for local bands at Queens Park in September. This was a big success and they had over 1000 visitors.

Christmas Cheer in Little Lever

St. Matthew's Coffee Shop used a grant of £300 to bring over 70 local residents together for a fish and chip Christmas lunch. Everyone had a great time, especially when Santa arrived!



Our thanks to Chris Buckley of **cebuc** for putting this newsletter together.

Other News

Strong support for small grants from Bolton Council

Bolton Council has supported the **BIG Bolton Fund** in 2011/12 by making £160,000 available for small grants to community groups in Bolton. This has made a big difference at a time when so many cuts have been made to public services.

And it's just been announced that **Bolton Council** have pledged to provide another £160,000 to go through the Fund from 1st April 2012. Fantastic news for people in Bolton!

Support BBF through Everyclick

Everyclick is an excellent way to raise money online for registered charities simply by doing everyday things. They have an excellent search engine (powered by Yahoo) where every search you make donates advertising money to your chosen charity. You can also raise money if you do your online shopping through their "Give as you live" page. Most high street, designer and online stores are linked with them and each purchase donates a percentage to charity.



Please sign up at everyclick.com and support **Bolton CVS**. Every penny we raise from here goes straight into the **BIG Bolton Fund**. It's easy to use but please contact us if you've any problem.

Staying in Touch

Online



You can find out about the latest **Big Bolton Fund** news, including stories about how people have used grants, by visiting our **Facebook** page facebook.com/bigboltonfund. Please click our like button and share us with your friends.



Bolton CVS has also recently started to use **Twitter**. To stay up to date with the latest news from all our projects follow us at twitter.com/BoltonCVS

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