

Woodland Community Group and Ballinger Charitable Trust



Following a micro-grants virtual event, Woodland Community Group were awarded £500 from Ballinger Charitable Trust to fund a dark sky adventure trip to Grassholme Observatory to bring together those who may be at high risk of social isolation and food poverty.

WHAT COULD YOUR COMMUNITY DO WITH £500?



The **Ballinger Charitable Trust** would like to distribute **small grants of £500** to volunteer-led groups supporting **older people (50 and over)** across **County Durham** with a general focus on communities experiencing **deprivation and/or rural/coastal isolation**.

Grants can be for **revenue or capital expenses**; any project costs to which a grant is awarded must be no more than £1000.

Groups need to be **constituted or working towards being constituted**.

There is no application form; eligible groups will be shortlisted and invited to pitch their idea to the Ballinger Charitable Trust at a virtual event on 3rd July.

To submit your project idea please complete the **expression of interest form by Friday 7th June** or if you would prefer to discuss your idea, call or email Isla Ballard on:

EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST
DEADLINE: 7TH
JUNE

 07496461986

 isla.ballard@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

How has Durham Community Action supported you?



DURHAM
COMMUNITY
ACTION

“We first connected with Durham Community Action to access support through the virtual funding session. Because of this we received advice and guidance around setting up as a small group as well as receiving news and update bulletins.

This meant that we were able to receive information about Ballinger funding and were successful in our application.”



We spoke to Simon Land at Woodland Community Group about how this funding has made an impact for their community group in Teesdale.

How has Ballinger Charitable Trust helped your organisation?

“This funding allowed us to take 20 people on a bus up to Grassholme Observatory! We learned about the aurora and used their powerful telescopes to take a closer look at the night sky.”

“The weather was good and it was a clear night. We managed to see all sorts, like Saturn and a few constellations that you wouldn't normally see with the naked eye.”

What impact will the funding make to people who attend the group?



© Gary Fildes

“We’ve already had a couple of people very keen on buying their own telescope and learning more about the night sky!

Our Chair also has made a contact at Durham University, who work closely with Grassholme Observatory to develop a project around mental health.

She is working on some research with UTASS to try and reduce suicide within the rural farming community.”

What impact will the funding make to people who attend the group?

“Ballinger are absolutely brilliant, they are a lovely group to work with. They were very interested in our group and very kind.

A top tip would be to apply for a project that is a bit different! Some events we have done in the past have been a village Tour of Britain, wildlife sessions and holding a welcome space over the winter season.”

Plans for the future?



“We are taking 50 people to Blackpool in October and looking forward to our biggest event of the year ‘Farmer Christmas’.

This started four years ago and has now grown to 100 tractors all decked out in lights. We raised £6,000 for local schools, so it’s a worthwhile event for the village!”