

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

‘Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities’



ALERT



10 August 2026

Arnold Clark – Community Support Fund

UK registered charities and community groups who provide services that are widely accessible to their local community and are located within a 50-mile radius of an Arnold Clark branch can apply now for a Community Support grant of up to £1,000.

There is particular interest in applications from smaller voluntary and community organisations who are working within Arnold Clark local communities.

The August 2026 round is focused on two specific areas:

- Arts and culture - music, books, art and theatre groups looking for money for transport, resources, venue hire, and special licences.
- Animal welfare - pet welfare. This could be, for example, helping covering costs for pet bills, animal shelters, and therapy animals (case by case).

Groups are encouraged to apply as early as they can as applications could be paused due to high demand.

Applications are open during the month of August.

[Arnold Clark - Community Support Fund](#)

Barclays – Community Sport Fund

This fund is available to all clubs and groups that run football, cricket or tennis activities for women and/or girls who wish to get more female coaches qualified.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations, including community groups, youth groups, and traditional sports clubs, who are submitting on behalf of the individuals who want to undertake their coaching qualifications. Groups who have already received a grant from the Barclays Community Sport Fund can also apply.

The fund provides grants of £200 to cover the cost of a Level 1 or equivalent introductory qualification and any additional safeguarding and first aid requirements for their chosen sport.

To be eligible for funding, the female coaches must be:

- Aged 16+ (or 18+ depending on specific course eligibility).
- Already coaching girls or would like to start.
- Part of a club or group with women and/or girls' provision where they would like to begin or continue coaching (e.g., current player, parent of a player, volunteer etc).
- Ready to undertake their coaching qualification within 12 months (subject to course availability).

There is particular interest in applications from female coaches from diverse backgrounds and with lived experience; to help ensure the programme reflects the communities it serves.

Delivery of activities must be community focused. Activities can take place at school facilities. However, the funding cannot be used for coaches who are solely coaching school sessions during curriculum time or after school clubs.

The deadline for applications is 4 November 2026.

[Barclays - Community Sport Fund](#)

Creative Scotland – Youth Music Initiative Funding

Creative Scotland has opened applications for 2026/27 support through its Youth Music Initiative (YMI), a national programme intended to widen access to high-quality music-making for young people aged 0-25.

YMI is structured across three strands. School Based Music Making is a managed allocation for Scotland's 32 local authorities, distributed using a Scottish Government formula, with supported activity commencing at the beginning of the academic year. Meanwhile, two open strands are inviting applications from organisations, including sole traders, based in Scotland or delivering activity within Scotland:

- Access to Music Making, through which applicants can seek between £1,000 and £40,000 to deliver up to 12 months of music-making opportunities outside school time.
- Strengthening Youth Music, through which individuals, organisations and networks can apply for between £1,000 and £20,000 for up to 12 months to undertake strategic action or training intended to strengthen Scotland's youth music sector.

Funded activity for both open strands can begin from 1 February 2027.

The deadline for applications is 9 September 2026.

[Creative Scotland - Youth Music Initiative Funding](#)

Finnis Scott Foundation

Applications are being accepted for grants supporting work linked to horticulture and plant sciences, as well as fine art and art history.

The funding is for UK charities registered with the Charity Commission, including charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs) and parent teacher associations (PTAs) of special schools.

Grants of up to £10,000 are generally considered, although due to high demand, most awards are currently £5,000 or less.

Over the years, the grants have benefited a wide range of charities, from small organisations working to improve outcomes for the vulnerable and disadvantaged through horticulture, to large museums concerned with the conservation and exhibition of art.

Preference is given to smaller charities where an award would have a significant impact.

Applications from mainstream schools are **not accepted**, though consideration will be given to applications from SEND / Special Schools submitted via their registered charity.

The Foundation is unlikely to fund newly established organisations which do not yet have a track record or have not yet produced accounts.

Both capital and revenue projects can be funded.

There are quarterly deadlines. Please note dates can change.

The next deadline for applications is 11 September 2026.

[Finnis Scott Foundation](#)

Gardens Trust – Community Grants

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for volunteer groups across the UK to help seed-fund projects that will improve, enhance, and support historic designed landscapes

The Gardens Trust's Community Grants Programme will support both capital and revenue costs related to historic designed landscape projects. Priority will be given to:

- Seed-funding or pump-priming for a sustainable activity, such as a restoration plan, Friends Group set-up costs, research project, or volunteer training schemes.
- Applications that reflect the Trust priorities around conservation, knowledge sharing, and encouraging participation and enjoyment of historic landscapes.

Preference will be given to smaller charities and projects where a grant can have more significant impact, and projects that will be sustainably completed within 18 months of the application.

The deadline for applications is 16 October 2026.

[Gardens Trust – Community Grants](#)

Henry Moore Foundation

Grants are available for not-for-profit organisations for projects and activities that promote the growth and development of sculpture across historical, modern, and contemporary registers, and research that expands the appreciation of sculpture.

The Henry Moore Foundation offers funding in the following categories:

- New projects and commissions: Grants of up to £20,000 to encourage new thinking about sculpture or sculpture history or contribute to public awareness and appreciation of sculpture.
- Acquisitions and collections: Grants of up to £20,000 for museums and galleries to acquire or conserve sculpture for their collections, cataloguing, and display costs.
- Research and development:
 - Long-term grants of up to £20,000 for projects that require funding for more than one year, such as a permanent collection catalogue.
 - Small research grants of up to £2,500 for academics, curators, and independent scholars for research costs on the history and interpretation of sculpture.
- Conferences, lectures, and publications: Grants of up to £5000 to publish a new book or journal, or to stage a conference or other event related to sculpture.

There are typically four deadlines per year. This funding round is for projects starting or opening to the public, no sooner than 1 January 2027.

The next application deadline is 1 September 2026.

[Henry Moore Foundation](#)

Inspiring Scotland – Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund

Not-for-profit, community-led organisations based in a specific place in Scotland with an income of less than £200,000 per year and their own bank account can apply now for grants of up to £13,500.

The funding is for projects that help communities to start and lead ecosystem restoration at a local level, engaging and involving local people, and building the support and skills for the long term.

Projects must focus on one or more of the following priorities for ecosystem restoration:

- Connecting nature corridors.
- Habitat and species restoration.
- Freshwater and wetland restoration.
- Coastal and marine initiatives.
- Control of invasive non-native species (INNS).

- Urban nature.

Projects need to be led by their community, involving local people in shaping the idea, and they must have a positive impact. This can include activities like training and upskilling volunteering opportunities, working together with local partners, or other ways of building engagement and leadership.

Projects must be delivered within 18 months of the application being successful. Grant recipients will also receive up to £1,500 in professional fundraising support.

Unincorporated organisations can apply, but must have a constitution, a bank account registered in the name of their organisation and require two signatories for withdrawals.

There is particular interest in grassroots community groups who may find it difficult to access funding for ecosystem restoration.

Funding is intended for revenue costs. Requests for small amounts of capital funding to purchase or upgrade physical items essential to delivery of the project will be considered.

Groups should apply at least three months before they start to plan their project.

There is a two-stage application process.

Expressions of interest are accepted on a rolling basis.

[Inspiring Scotland – Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund](#)

International Tree Foundation – UK Community Tree Planting Grants

Grants are available for community-based organisations across the UK to deliver tree-planting projects that protect and restore indigenous trees and woodlands, support community engagement in tree planting, and increase awareness of the importance of trees and forests to environmental and human well-being.

The UK Community Tree Planting Programme will support projects that meet the following essential criteria:

- Plant trees in public/publicly accessible spaces: sites that are readily accessible to the public, including schools, parks, rights of way, and sites managed by community groups.
- Plant indigenous tree species: this may include traditional fruit trees and 'honorary' natives, where appropriate.
- Engage community members in tree planting and enjoying the benefits of woodlands.
- Have clear plans for maintenance and sustainability.

In addition, for this funding round, proposed projects must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Engage children and young adults in tree planting and learning about trees.
- Engage vulnerable groups and groups with low access to woodlands.

- Create biodiversity in habitats.
- Conserve soil and water.
- Demonstrate new approaches, such as agroforestry.
- Support rewilding and natural regeneration.
- Support work or research on tree pest and disease resistance and climate change adaptation.
- Support urban tree planting.

Grants are available for community woodland/hedging projects that range from 100 to 10,000 trees planted per year, with a maximum price equivalent to £2.15 per tree. In addition, these projects also receive two maintenance grants equivalent to £0.10 per tree, disbursed in the first and second summers after planting.

The deadline for applications is 11 December 2026.

[International Tree Foundation – UK Community Tree Planting Grants](#)

Leche Trust – Heritage Conservation Grants

UK registered charities or public authorities can apply now for grants of up to £5,000 for the conservation of historically, artistically and culturally significant buildings and objects dating from before 1837 that are in urgent need of remedial treatment.

Items must be in public or charitable ownership and accessible to the public. These might include individual paintings, sculpture and monuments, wall paintings and non-structural architectural fittings such as decorative plaster work and panelling. They will also consider applications relating to archaeological finds, items within archives and libraries and other decorative art objects.

Preference is given to smaller projects, or specific elements of projects, where the contribution can have a greater impact.

The deadline for applications is 31 August 2026.

[Leche Trust – Heritage Conservation Grants](#)

Leche Trust – Performing Arts Grants

UK registered charities or local authority-run venues, with a turnover of less than £1.5 million per annum, may apply now for grants of around £4,000 for projects that fit either of the following priorities:

- New Works in Performing Arts: the commissioning, development, production and/or performance of new works in music, theatre, dance and performance across all genres

- Artists' Professional Development: to support artists' professional development through programmes that address a clear need or gap in development. These programmes can be aimed at early or mid-career artists, but they need to reflect current context and practices.

Preference is for smaller projects, or specific elements of projects, where a contribution can have a greater impact.

The deadline for applications is 31 August 2026.

[Leche Trust – Performing Arts Grants](#)

Museums Galleries Scotland – Repair and Adaptation Fund

Organisations based in Scotland that run an accredited museum can apply now for grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 to undertake capital projects that help build long-term resilience and increase accessibility.

Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) is providing the grants to support capital projects that are not possible within the limitations of a museum's core maintenance projects.

Accredited museums can use the grants to tackle urgent repair needs that:

- Negatively impact the safety and security of, or access to, collections.
- Negatively impact visitor experience.
- Limit the ability of staff and volunteers to carry out work.
- Create health hazards.

The funding can also be used to improve the environmental sustainability or accessibility of museum buildings through:

- Lower running costs by improving environmental efficiency and contributing to Scotland's goal of net-zero emissions by 2045.
- Improving the climate resilience of buildings and grounds, such as undertaking adaptations to reduce damage from storms, heatwaves and flooding
- Improving the accessibility of museums for disabled visitors, volunteers, staff, and those with access needs.
- Developing capital works plans for future repairs and adaptations that address urgent repair needs, improve environmental efficiency or increase the accessibility of museums

Projects can be up to two years long and must start within six months of the award date.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest is 26 August 2026.

[Museums Galleries Scotland – Repair and Adaptation Fund](#)

National Lottery Community Fund – Small Eco Awards

The National Lottery Community Fund is offering Small Eco Awards grants to support grassroots environmental action and community-led projects designed to deliver local environmental and social outcomes.

The awards are intended for projects that meet at least one of the scheme priorities: helping people connect with and care for nature in their area, making a positive difference to the environment or helping people tackle pollution in their communities.

Grants of between £300 and £20,000 are available.

Support is aimed at organisations with a formal structure, including constituted voluntary or community organisations, groups or clubs, registered charities, charitable incorporated organisations (CIO), not-for-profit companies, community interest companies (CIC) and community benefit societies. Schools can apply where a project benefits the local community rather than only the school, while sports groups are eligible if activities are open to the wider community. Statutory bodies, including local authorities, town, parish and community councils, can also apply.

The grant can be used to start a new activity or continue an existing one where it aligns with the priorities. It can also support work to help organisations or communities adapt to new challenges, as well as one-off events with a clear environmental benefit.

Eligible costs include specialist support such as advice from a nature or environmental organisation, equipment, staffing and training, transport and utilities, volunteer expenses and organisational running costs. Small-scale land or capital work is also covered, including refurbishment and adaptations intended to improve environmental impact.

Applications can be made at any time.

[National Lottery Community Fund – Small Eco Awards](#)

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust is offering grants for organisations working in agriculture, rural development, and insurance across the UK to deliver projects and activities across one or more of the Trust's main objectives:

- To advance the education of the public using research and the dissemination of information concerning agriculture.
- To advance the education of young people within rural areas.
- To relieve poverty within rural areas.
- To promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations, to advance education and leisure.
- To promote research into agricultural-associated activities.

- To advance the education of the public using research and the dissemination of information concerning insurance.

Priority will be given to larger initiatives that would have a significant impact on rural communities, as well as initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas.

Funding is at the discretion of the Trust. However, most grants fall within the range of £1,000 to £75,000.

Trustees met twice a year to consider applications, typically in June and December.

The next deadline for applications is 9 October 2026.

[NFU Mutual Charitable Trust](#)

Thomas Wall Trust

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for UK registered charities for specific projects that improve communication skills for disadvantaged adults and supports NEET people into employment.

The Thomas Wall Trust views communication skills as critical capabilities for people who want to improve their employment prospects, self-confidence, resilience, and life chances.

The funding is for registered UK registered charities with an annual turnover of between £25,000 and £500,000 that are working to develop communication skills for people, of working age, usually 18+, from disadvantaged groups who want to improve their employment prospects. Beneficiaries must gain at least one officially recognised and regulated, accredited vocational qualification during or within two months of project completion.

Proposals are welcome which target people experiencing multiple deprivation or other groups demonstrably facing major hurdles to employment, especially women, people with physical, mental, or learning disabilities, and refugees.

Priority will be given to match funded projects and self-sustainable projects, with a view to becoming less reliant on grants in the future.

Grants cannot be used for capital costs.

There is a two-stage application process.

Applications are being accepted for the November 2026 meeting.

The deadline for first stage application is 11 September 2026.

[Thomas Wall Trust](#)

VisitScotland – National Events Programme

VisitScotland is inviting applications for Round 57 of the National Events Programme, offering financial support to cultural and sporting events taking place outside of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The programme aims to assist events that align with the national events strategy, *Scotland the Perfect Stage*, and that support domestic tourism within Scotland.

Funding awards of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available. Events must have a delivery budget exceeding £20,000 and attract more than 1,000 in-person attendees. Eligible activities include innovation to grow the event, marketing and PR, hired equipment to enhance the visitor experience, and initiatives focused on accessibility, inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Applicants must be legally constituted organisations running live public-facing events. Support is available for both new and established events occurring in eligible regions across Scotland.

Financial support is limited to a maximum of 25% of the total event budget. Events should also receive backing from relevant local authorities or public agencies. Core staging costs, significant capital purchases and hospitality are not eligible for funding.

Round 57 covers events taking place between 1 June 2027 and 30 September 2027.

The deadline for applications is 5 October 2026.

[VisitScotland – National Events Programme](#)

Woodroffe Benton Foundation – Small Grants Programme

UK registered charities with an annual income of less than £750,000, who have been operating for at least two years, can apply for a one-off grant of between £500 and £2,500 for projects that improve the quality of life and social engagement for people with severe physical and/or learning disabilities within the UK.

This round is focused on projects that support people, particularly those with physical or learning disabilities, to access the natural world and spend time outdoors.

The funding is primarily for core operating costs rather than for a specific project; however, the latter will not be excluded.

The deadline for applications is 31 August 2026.

[Woodroffe Benton Foundation – Small Grants Programme](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 17 September 2026.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 or eacrenewableenergyfund@east-ayrshire.gov.uk .

[Renewable Energy Fund](#)

Tincornhill Quarry Fund

For further information on application criteria and deadline dates please go to:

[Tincornhill Quarry Fund](#)

East Ayrshire 4 Community

If you are looking for external funding for a particular project, then please remember to register **FREE** at East Ayrshire 4 Community by going to the following link:

[East Ayrshire 4 Community](#)