

Funding opportunities for community heritage groups in Wales.

This document is not a how-to guide on applying for funds, but a listing of where funds are potentially available. For details on key fundraising skills, please see separate guidance from the CBA and our links to recommended training and guidance.

For community heritage organisations, funding is a key aspect of both maintaining the group and looking to expand and develop into the future. Examining group finances, looking for opportunities, and applying to suitable sources should be an integral part of any group's calendar for the year. Knowing where funds could be found is important – it means targeting the right places, and a higher chance of success, if efforts are narrowed down.

The following is a brief guide to some funding avenues that community heritage groups can apply to.

Archaeology and heritage specific funds

There are some organisations that specifically hold funds for community projects or organisations. There are also several organisations within UK archaeology who fund research, training, or fund attendance at conferences – which may benefit your group.

The Cambrian Archaeology Association



Grants and Prizes - Cambrian Archaeological Association

G. T. Clark Prize The Association administers the G. T. Clark Trust Fund, se...

 cambrians.org.uk

Research fund – between £500 and £2000, and can cover travel, research, fieldwork, excavation, scientific services, and associated photography, site drawings, and typesetting of results. It is limited to projects in Wales, and applications close mid-October each year for consideration at the November CAA meeting.

The Royal Archaeological Institute (RAI)

The RAI has a series of small grants for research, and they prioritise “part time and amateur” projects. From their website:

“Applications will be considered for archaeological fieldwork, survey, aspects of excavation and post-excavation research; architectural recording and analysis; and artefact and art-historical research. Documentary research per se will NOT be eligible, but can be considered as an element of the other categories. Preference will be given to projects within the British Isles, which have significant part-time/amateur involvement and may also be given to those who are members.”

There are three grants:

- RAI Research Fund

Awards up to £5,000 are available each year.

- The Tony Clark Memorial Fund

Up to £500 is available each year for scientific elements of archaeological projects.

- The Bunnell Lewis Research Fund

Up to £750 is available each year for projects which preferably involve the excavation and exploration of Roman sites. <https://www.royalarchinst.org/grants>

Other archaeological and historical organisations

A comprehensive listing of finds from archaeological organisations can be found on BAJR (British archaeological Jobs Resource) – please note some are region-specific, and some require membership of the organisation before you can apply for funding:

<http://www.bajr.org/BAJRResources/funding.asp>

General funds for charities, non-profit groups, and community groups

Local Councils and Town Councils

Small pots of funding are usually available to charities, community groups, and non-profits. These will vary between regions and will have different deadlines and application criteria.

When applying to these funds, it is important to think of what priorities will be for the local councils in what they give funding too. Make sure you emphasise the benefit your group brings the community – by giving people a way to connect and improve their wellbeing, or developing volunteering opportunities, or making new heritage trails through a specific place, or reaching out to minority and marginalised groups – and demonstrate why you are a valuable part of the local community.

You can find the right local authority by searching the UK Government website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-funding-community-project>

Community Foundations

Separate to local and town councils, there are also Community Foundations in many areas that administer grants and funds for community groups and any work that benefits the community.

You can find your nearest one by searching the Community Foundation Network directory:

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

Groundwork

Groundwork is a national charity, a network of connected local branches that focuses on improving quality of life. Its priorities are people, places and prosperity, and it aims to build safer and stronger communities, to promote health and well-being, to support local economies, to promote environmental sustainability, to combat climate change, to provide young people with something to do, and to tackle unemployment.

They work with several other national organisations to administrate their grant schemes – including ones you may be familiar with such as Tesco Community Grants (formerly Tesco Bags of Help).

There are two main hubs of Groundwork in Wales – South Wales and North Wales.

South Wales: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/southwales/>

North Wales: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/northwales/>

They do not currently have any Welsh specific grant schemes, but details of their UK-wide ones can be found here: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/national-grants/>

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

One of the largest grant giving organisations in the UK, the National Lottery has heritage specific branches to its funding that can be applied for by community heritage groups. IT can seem daunting, particularly for larger funds, but they have excellent guidance in place and their funding officers are helpful and welcome queries prior to any application. You can contact wales@heritagefund.org.uk to be put in touch with your regional advisor.

It's very important to read two key documents before you start thinking about a NLHF grant.

First, their guide to what they fund: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/what-we-fund>

Second, their guide to what outcomes they expect from the projects they fund: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/outcomes>

It is important that your project or funding need matches these documents.

The main awards currently available in Wales are the National Lottery Grants for Heritage (£3k - £5million), Local Places for Nature (a capital scheme to kick start projects enhancing and restoring natural areas, up to £250k), and Community Woodlands (restore, create, and manage woodlands in Wales, £10-250k).

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/in-your-area/wales>

The WCVA (Welsh Council for Voluntary Action)

The WCVA have a range of funds that they administer – from resilience funds to help groups recover from impacts of Covid-19, to funds available for communities within a specific distance of landfill sites, to financial support for social enterprises.

These have different application dates and requirements – it's best to look at their funding page regularly to find out what is available and which would be best for your group.

Your group will need to be registered on their Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP) to apply for any of these funds, but this is free: <https://map.wcva.cymru/Account/Culture?returnUrl=%2Fhttps://wcva.cymru/funding/>

The Co-op Local Community Fund

Local Co-op branches can have a nominated cause to support, which receives a percentage of profits on certain items bought in that store. People can also choose a cause when they sign up for membership of the Co-op, and there is guidance available on how to promote this funding source to your supporters, members, and the wider public.

To be eligible, you must fall under one of their criteria:

- It enables people to access food and co-operate together to feed everyone
- It helps improve people's mental wellbeing
- It offers young people opportunities to develop new skills and make a difference in their community

Applications open again in Spring 2022 – follow their web page for more details.

<https://causes.coop.co.uk/>

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

A national charity set up in 1990 to support coalfields communities and create opportunities for the people living within them.

Grants are available from £500-£7000 for projects that “create jobs, increase skills, improve health & well-being, broaden childcare provision or develop community facilities.”

Projects must “be based in an eligible coalfield community or be able to show clear and immediate benefits for an eligible coalfield community. Projects must benefit the wider community.”

Not all regions are eligible to apply – you must check their criteria. Their Wales-specific funding streams can be found here: https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/wales_support/funding-wales/

Grant giving Trusts

There are thousands of grant-giving trusts in the UK – many fund specific types of project or organisation, some are more open, and others are only open by invitation. It is a complicated world, and usually the realm of professional, full-time fundraisers who specialise in applying to large numbers of these trusts in the hope of a 10% hit rate.

However, some of these Trusts are approachable, and they are a very good way of becoming “known” to funders – once an organisation successfully applies to one trust, they are much more likely to be viewed as a viable option to others. Some have very few application or reporting requirements, meaning groups have to spend less time and resources drafting applications and reports.

There is a central listing of all of these trusts – the Directory of Social Change (DSC) Directory of Grant Making Trusts. <https://www.dsc.org.uk/publication/the-directory-of-grant-making-trusts-2022-23/>

This retails for £125 and is updated each year, but local libraries will usually have the most up to date version available in their reference collection. It is worth pooling efforts with other local groups to research potential trusts to apply to, and even submit joint applications.

The WCVA runs a regular course on “Introduction to fundraising through trusts and foundations” which would be very helpful for any organisation wanting to explore this model of funding. Sign up to their updates to find out the date of the next course: <https://wcva.cymru/training-events/introduction-to-fundraising-through-trusts-and-foundations/>

Keeping up to date

Please note that this document is only up to date at the time of writing. There are several websites and update services that list current funding opportunities – it is recommended that you sign up to their emails or check their websites regularly. The following are good resources for updates:

Funding Wales is run by the WCVA and is the most up to date, exhaustive listing of time-limited funding opportunities. You need to register to view details of opportunities, but this is free.
<https://funding.cymru/>

Grants Online – Wales

<https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/region-news/wales/>

The Heritage Finding Directory – has a searchable database of funding opportunities, as well as some guidance

in applying and case studies of successful projects (UK Wide, can filter to Wales)

<https://www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org/>