



news release

COMMUNITY GROUPS GET CASH BOOST FROM BERNARD MATTHEWS FUND

Community groups across Norfolk, north Suffolk and east Lincolnshire have been given a boost with the first grants made from the new Bernard Matthews Fund.

A panel made up of Bernard Matthews Farms staff, guided by the Norfolk Community Foundation, have made five awards totalling £5000, the first which have been made since the Fund was launched with a £49,000 initial injection in October.

The organisations receiving grants are:

- £1000 to **Ludham PCC** in north Norfolk, towards repairing the roof of the Ludham Community Church Room. Local councillor Simon Partridge said in support of the application, "The church rooms are used by many organisations within the village and is central to parish life. Seventeen different organisations regularly use the rooms."
- £750 to the **1st Dereham Scout Group**, to equip each of six patrols with sufficient cooking equipment to be able to provide a proper and complete meal on scouting trips.
- £1000 to the **Lowestoft & East Suffolk Maritime Society**, which runs a museum providing a record of Lowestoft's fishing and shipbuilding history. The money will go towards equipping a new educational facility in the museum to boost its work with schools.

- more follows -

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- £500 to **Westhall Community Council** near Halesworth, which runs the village's community hall. The money will be put towards replacing existing furniture in the hall. The hall is used by a range of community groups.
- £1735 to **Community Hub Catering** in Boston, Lincolnshire, which runs a community catering business benefiting deprived groups including the old and the vulnerable. The grant will be used to assist with the core costs of running the business.

Bernard Matthews Farms HR Director Andrew Sherwood said, "We have always been very active in supporting good causes within the communities that support our business. We launched the new Bernard Matthews Fund to enable us to continue focussing our giving at a truly local level, and this first set of grants demonstrates how well that process is working.

"We have chosen the Norfolk Community Foundation to administer the Fund because of their proven track record of identifying community needs and ensuring funds reach grass-roots level.

"We are dividing our contributions towards immediate grant-giving and providing an endowed fund for the longer term. We will be announcing a second grants round in the new year, and look forward to receiving more bids from groups working in the heart of our communities."

Full details of how to apply for grants from The Bernard Matthews Fund are available on the Norfolk Community Foundation website at www.norfolkfoundation.com/how-to-apply-for-a-grant.htm. The closing date for the next grants round will be announced in the New Year.

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For further media information please contact Andy Newman at Newman Associates PR on 01603 465636 or 07739 847964.

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