



## News Release

### **Local charities given Bernard Matthews funding boost**

Community and voluntary groups across Norfolk have received a funding boost from the Bernard Matthews Fund, which is administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation.

The Garage and Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Norwich and Light of Life Baptist Church in Great Yarmouth have been awarded a total of £4,131 for various projects as part of the funding's latest phase.

"We're absolutely delighted to be awarded the funding from Bernard Matthews," says Adam Yaxley from The Garage Trust, based in Norwich. "It means 30 young people, who otherwise could not access our sessions, can now benefit from a bursary to enable them to take part in our popular dance, drama and music classes."

As well as classes, the funding will also help The Garage provide free tickets to inspire youngsters to attend live performances, opportunities to gain nationally recognised qualifications and help with costs such as transport and dancewear.

Five grants totalling £6,631 were made in the latest round of awards since the Fund was launched in October 2009. The Fund is designed to help a wide range of rural charities and initiatives and has awarded grants totalling nearly £80,000 to date.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, based in Norwich, will receive funding to create a storage cupboard in the physiotherapy room to store the centre's physiotherapy equipment.

Steve Mackay from the centre said: “The therapy centre provides services, support and information to those affected by long term neurological conditions in the Norwich and Norfolk area.

“Unfortunately we don’t receive any funding from the Multiple Sclerosis Society so we rely entirely on fundraising activities and grants to survive. We hire out our rooms for meetings, seminars and various therapies. The largest room in the centre is used as a fully equipped physiotherapy facility. Creating the storage cupboard will enable equipment such as parallel bars, balance balls, weights and standing frames to be stored safely when not in use.”

Andrew Sherwood, Human Resources Director at Bernard Matthews, commented: “Supporting groups located in the heart of our communities has always been important to Bernard Matthews and the fund is just one aspect of our commitment to corporate responsibility.

“The fund aims to give at a truly local level and make a real difference to community support projects such as The Garage and Break. These are worthy projects fulfilling vital roles within Norfolk.”

The Bernard Matthews Fund awards grants of up to £2,000 to support community groups working in Norfolk, North Suffolk, and Lincolnshire. To find out more information about the fund or how to apply for grants, visit [www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund).

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**Notes for editors**

- Details of the Bernard Matthews Fund can be found on The Norfolk Community Foundation website at: [www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/bernard-matthews-fund)