



news release

February 2014

Three Spalding based Charities Benefit from Funding Boost

Tulip Radio, Spalding Street Pastors, and Voices Unplugged have been awarded over £3,000 as part of the eighth round of donations from The Bernard Matthews Fund. The three Spalding based charities received the grant funding through the Norfolk Community Foundation, who aim to help a wide range of rural charities and voluntary initiatives across Lincolnshire, Norfolk and north Suffolk.

Tulip Radio, a not for profit company serving Spalding and the surrounding area received a £988 grant from Bernard Matthews to go towards establishing 'Community Voices' a media and IT training programme.

Tulip Radio covers the sparsely populated rural areas of Lincolnshire aiming to be fully accessible to all local people and is committed to providing broadcasting services to individuals who would otherwise be underserved. In particular, charities and community groups are given a voice by Tulip Radio which helps rural community groups reach their regional audience.

The Bernard Matthews Fund helped Tulip Radio to create 'Community Voices' which encouraged young people and young adults to get involved in developing new skills which culminated in the creation of a radio show designed, produced and presented by the new volunteers – putting the skills they had learnt back into the community.

- More follows -

Jan Whitbourn a presenter at Tulip Radio said:

“The support of the Bernard Matthews Fund sparked something special that we are looking to continue into 2014. The Community Voices project ran for 12 weeks and helped 10 young people and adults to participate and engage with their local community through Tulip Radio.

“Our aim is to carry on with the project with old and new students, bring new young people together to enhance their skills and give new ideas to the show. Students are encouraged to take advantage of their skills and show their ability to help promote businesses and their work which also brings the community together and shows them some skills they need in readiness for the world of work.”

The second charity to benefit from a funding boost is Spalding Street Pastors who walk through the town between 10.00pm and 4.00am helping individuals to get home safely, find their friends or help if they are hurt or unwell. The Spalding group was set up in 2013 following an approach from local councillors, the police and people involved in the Spalding night economy.

The Bernard Matthews Fund has helped with the cost of equipping the Street Pastor team with uniforms enabling them to be easily identified and recognised when patrolling the streets.

Marion Sandhu, Team Coordinator of Spalding Street Pastors said:

“The night time economy of Spalding is enjoyed by large numbers of people who may become vulnerable after an excess consumption of alcohol. The Street Pastors are an invaluable support to these, mainly young people, by supporting, helping, listening and creating a calming influence, working in partnership with others who work in the night time economy. The response to the Street Pastors in Spalding has been very positive.”

Also benefitting from the funding, Voices Unplugged, an organisation reaching out to members of the Spalding and surrounding community received a grant to help support the group’s activities that bring members of the community together through song.

The group’s inclusive singing activities attract older people, carers and those living in relative isolation either due to their individual circumstances or due to living in rural isolated locations.

Rural and sparsely populated areas of Lincolnshire have limited access to arts based activities which is where Voices Unplugged aims to fill the gap by providing an opportunity for anyone to enjoy singing in an informal way within a friendly and accessible group.

Launched in October 2009 to help a wide range of rural charities and voluntary initiatives across Lincolnshire, Norfolk and north Suffolk, the fund has already provided over £55,000 in grants.

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 Tulip Radio, Spalding Street Pastors and Voices Unplugged. These are all very worthy projects fulfilling a vital role within Spalding and its surrounding area.”

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/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm.

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For further media information please contact:

Photo Caption: Tulip Radio ‘community voices’ (left to right) Josh Baldwin, Jake Smith and Callum Pepper (front)

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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/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm