

# Bernard Matthews

## news release

February 2014

### VOICES UNPLUGGED BY GRANT FUNDING

Voices Unplugged, an organisation reaching out to members of the Spalding and surrounding community has received a grant to help support the group's activities that bring members of the community together through song. The grant was awarded as part of the eighth round of donations from The Bernard Matthews Fund.

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.

Thea Croxall from Voices Unplugged said:

"Voices Unplugged provides access to arts activities via its singing workshops in Spalding Methodist Church Hall which will culminate in an hotly anticipated charity fund raising concert in March 2014. Singing is proven to benefit health and well-being as well as the social benefits a group like this can provide to isolated individuals."

-more follows –

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

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 Voices Unplugged. This is a worthy project 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](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm).

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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](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm)