

## Live Grantmaking

At this year's AGM, we plan to pilot a new way of involving members in our grantmaking.

On the night, attendees will see short, pre-recorded presentations from three inspiring organisations doing fantastic work across the town, each pitching for your support (a bit like Dragon's Den!).

The three groups are:

- **Sunny Side Up** – supporting older people in Stratford
- **Kate's Story Tree** – providing engaging activities for children and young people
- **Warwickshire Vision Support** – working with people with sight loss across the community

Once each organisation's presentation has been shown, you will have the opportunity to vote for your favourite group and idea. It won't be easy, each of the groups deliver work that is essential for the health and wellbeing of our community and make a significant positive impact on the lives of the people they work with.

- **The group that receives the highest number of votes will secure £5,000 in funding**
- **The group that receives the second highest number of votes will receive £3,000 in funding**
- **The group that receives the third highest number of votes will receive £1,500 in funding**

This is just a small glimpse into the world of grantmaking – where we see so many fantastic organisations and have to make difficult decisions about where our funding goes, especially in these unprecedented and challenging times.

We hope that you will enjoy this interactive and informative session and will look to learn from this pilot to see how we can engage the membership more directly in our work in the future.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

James McHugh  
Grant Manager

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Our fantastic organisations are:

### **Sunny Side Up**

Sunny Side Up is a voluntary organisation based in Stratford-upon-Avon creating convivial social opportunities and events for those in the second half of life (50-100+!). With an emphasis on fun and friendship, *Sunny Side Up* reaches out to older people who may feel alone and isolated or simply wish to expand their horizons. They understand the devastating effect loneliness and social isolation can have on older people's lives and health - and are determined to do something about it.

Their objectives are:

- To banish loneliness and social isolation
- To improve health and emotional well-being
- To add fun and laughter to life
- To help older people adapt to digital technology
- To encourage inter-generational volunteering and contact

### **Kate's Story tree**

Kate's Story Tree is an arts project focused on storytelling as a way to inspire and engage young minds. The Storytree is a space. A space made of people and stories and toys. It is a museum and a library and a great big art cupboard. It is a space to share and a den in which to hide. It is bright and it is messy. It is calm and noisy. There are tin elephants and big blue stars and a wooden rainbow, some Russian dolls, monkeys and birds. There is a big rainbow and a dream catcher in which to catch dreams both big and small. It is filled with paper hearts and hole punches and coloured tape. A jar of paper stars on which to make a wish or two or three. There are books and paper. Pens and sharpened pencils. There is glue and stickers and pictures and paperclips. There are scarves and carpets and fabric strips and bags and purses. There are boxes, big and small and jars with lids and bowls and spoons.

It is a space within a place ... up the stairs and under the wooden eaves of the cafe, between the bookshelves of a bookshop or library, under the lights of a theatre space. It is under the branches of a tree, in a boat next to the river, in the wigwam in the forest. There are paper hearts and stars stuck in the cracks of the floor. It is inside. It is outside. It is sunny and rainy. The big rainbow appears and doesn't go away. It is living, it breathes and it moves from place to place. It changes and grows and still, it is the same Storytree. Toys disappear, things are lost and found and new stuff arrives. It is a place of lost things. People come to it to play, to make, to listen and to create.

### **Warwickshire Vision Support**

Warwickshire Vision Support continues to be the primary provider of services for people living with sight loss in Warwickshire. For 108 years, as a local charity for local people, it aims to improve the quality of life of visually impaired people by helping them come to terms with visual loss through developing accessible advice, information and support services which promote more choice, greater independence and healthier lifestyles. This includes:

- Teaching new skills to improve mobility in the community and safety in the home through their Rehabilitation Service
- Providing access to advice, information and guidance through four weekly Vision Support Centres and accompanying pop-up support centres serving the more remote towns in Warwickshire
- Giving information and support to people at the point of diagnosis through their Eye Clinic Advice Desks across the county
- Reducing isolation through a Home Visitor Service to give help with reading and social support
- Promoting social networks through 14 social clubs
- Promoting social inclusion and empowerment through IT Training and Advocacy.