

## **Old Spot brings home the bacon for 23 local causes**

Gloucestershire's own piggy bank, The Old Spot Trust, has boosted the coffers of 23 local goods causes as part of its annual grant-giving.

The charitable trust has handed out just under £9,000 to charities, community groups and non profit making organisations throughout the county.

Applications from more than 35 groups aimed at helping Gloucestershire's people, animals, wildlife and environment were considered by Trustees. Among those receiving grants were Acorns Children's Hospice, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the Friends of Kimbrose Lunch Club and Cinderford Hard of Hearing Club

The Old Spot Trust was set up in 2007 – the same year Gloucestershire celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year as a 'shire' - with the aim of helping to make Gloucestershire an even better place to live, work and enjoy.

“This is the third year we have given out awards and we are delighted that, in that time, we have been able to distribute almost £27,000 to 67 charities, community groups and non profit making organisations in Gloucestershire aimed at making life better for local people, animals, wildlife or our environment,” said Rob Ayland, Chairman of The Old Spot Trust.

“As Trustees, we find it humbling to meet and hear about so many people giving up their time to set up support groups for those that need it. For many of them, a few hundred pounds can buy much-needed equipment, or be put towards a larger fund raising target, which will be essential in helping them get on with their valuable work.”

The money has been raised through activities such as Frightmare and the infamous Haunted Hayride at Over Farm each October, The Old Spot Trust Cookbook which features more than 100 recipes from well-known Gloucestershire people and donations from individuals and organisations.

The Trust's five Trustees all run businesses in the county – Rob Ayland runs Completely Motoring at Staverton, Rob & Sue Keene run Over Farm Market near Gloucester and Hilary Allison & Caroline Rawlinson run Tewkesbury-based PR consultancy Vivid. They give up their time to run the Trust on a voluntary basis so that the maximum amount of money raised can go directly to successful applicants.

The full list of successful applicants (covering the whole county unless stated otherwise) is:

Acorns Children's Hospice  
Active Gloucestershire  
2322 (Dowty) Squadron ATC - Arle  
Churchdown Panthers Football Club  
Cinderford Hard of Hearing Club  
Coleford Area Market & Coastal Town Initiative (MCTI)  
Friends of Kimbrose Lunch Club -Gloucester  
Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre  
Gloucester Rowing Club  
Gloucestershire Animal Welfare Association  
Gloucestershire Chest Fund  
Gloucestershire Dance  
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust  
Home Start – Stroud & Dursley  
Mel Nicholls (potential paralympian) - Bishops Cleeve  
Nymphsfield Playing Field Committee

Snapper (not for profit photographic agency)  
Stonehouse After School & Breakfast Club  
Stroud in Bloom  
Teckels Animal Sanctuary, Whitminster  
The Family Haven - Gloucester  
Time and Place (Working to save young lives on the road) - Cinderford  
Twynning Village Hall



Pictured at The Awards Evening are (left to right) Caroline Rawlinson (Trustee), Christopher Harris (2322 Dowty Squadron ATC), Barbara Harris (2322 Dowty Squadron ATC), Flight Lieutenant Richard Jennings ((2322 Dowty Squadron ATC), Hilary Allison (Trustee), Rob Keene (Trustee), Sue Keene (Trustee) and Rob Ayland (Trustee).