INSIDE:
• Seven years of project progress
• Bridgwater’s business boost
• Educating on nuclear energy

Community funding hits £15m milestone

Photo credit: Timeless Images
Welcome to the Autumn issue of Plugged in.

This year marks the seventh anniversary since the project received the green light for construction. On page 5, we reflect on the standout moments. As well as celebrating construction milestones, it’s important to shine a spotlight on those helping behind the scenes. I recently spent a day with the dedicated cleaning team (pictured below), the unsung heroes, witnessing firsthand their meticulous efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of our facilities. Next, I will be spending time with Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS). You can find out more about SPS on page 11 with our interview with former apprentice Josh Tobin.

We are proud to announce that the HPC Community Fund has reached a milestone, awarding over £15 million to local groups. You can read more on pages 12 and 13.

Editor’s note

Welcome to the latest issue of Plugged in, the Hinkley Point C magazine for the community. As always, it’s a busy time for the project. This month I had the pleasure of meeting some of the local charities and organisations benefitting from the HPC Community Fund. We are pleased to report that we’ve now given £15 million of grants to community organisations.

It’s also great to see that wildlife is flourishing at the Hinkley Point C site, with new species being spotted in the area (see page 14), along with the work to inspire individuals into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. Team members James and Phillip share how they’ve been engaging and educating the younger generation on page 7.

We understand the importance of community to Hinkley Point C and would love to hear from you. If you have any questions, stories to share, or topics you’d like us to feature in future editions, please let us know using the contact details on the left.

Stacy Walker, Plugged in Editor

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORT

Hinkley Point C has its own Apprentice and Skills Hub that provides a welcoming environment to help the project’s apprentices and trainees develop – and this year marks its fifth anniversary.

The Hub allows visitors access to career guidance, courses, IT equipment and training. It’s also used for events such as apprenticeship introductions and wellbeing sessions. You can find out more about how Hinkley Point C supports its apprentices on page 7.

Hinkley Point C benefits from a diverse workforce drawn from all over Britain, Europe and the rest of the world. A team of chaplains are available to all workers, helping to provide pastoral and spiritual care ensuring everyone feels supported; this is a first on a major construction project.

The mental wellbeing of team members is important at Hinkley Point C. The chaplains encourage everyone to feel able to be themselves at work. They represent all faiths and none, offering a listening ear, and are ready to talk through any concerns in a non-judgmental and impartial manner.

Site chaplain Ewen Huffman (pictured back row, second from right), is the first paid chaplain in the UK construction industry.

He leads the team of seven volunteer associate chaplains, some of whom are active in the local community as ministers and school governors.

Ewen said: “We listen, reflect and are here for everyone. We journey with people and we do ceremonies (little and large, site-wide or with a team who may be bereaved). We support faith and belief – which is a big part of who people are – and this is respected on site.”

Promoting safety

As well as providing pastoral care, Ewen is involved in the coordination of the Hinkley Point C Safe Day, Safe Month Fund. The initiative was developed to drive safety on the project while supporting charitable organisations – with a donation of £50 to a local cause for every successful Safe Day and £3,000 for a Safe Month.

The Woodland Warrior Programme recently received £5,400 from the fund during a presentation ceremony assisted by Ewen (pictured). The next recipient is Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a local charity that provides life-saving, pre-hospital critical care to patients in need.

An act of kindness

When local GP Dr Suzanne Cavaghan approached Ewen to help organise a trip for more than 100 people living in temporary accommodation in North Petherton, he jumped at the chance to provide support.

On-site catering provider Somerset Larder generously donated meals for the families. The food fuelled a lively visit to a soft play centre in what was a fun-filled occasion appreciated by all.

Chaplain chat

A word from associate chaplain, Chris Pollard

“I’m a local lad, brought up in North Petherton. I’m currently a school governor and help to run youth groups. I also spend time at Hinkley Point C, working closely with the team that transports people to and from site – Somerset Passenger Solutions.

“In everything I have done, spending time listening to people has featured heavily. On the project, I’ve had both general conversations and deep discussions over life issues that have affected people – often nothing to do with their work lives. Sometimes they need an impartial ear so they can feel free to talk, and this is where I come in – with an open heart. It is a real privilege to be trusted by people with their story.”

Rob’s Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn issue of Plugged in.

This year marks the seventh anniversary since the project received the green light for construction. On page 5, we reflect on the standout moments. As well as celebrating construction milestones, it’s important to shine a spotlight on those helping behind the scenes. I recently spent a day with the dedicated cleaning team (pictured below), the unsung heroes, witnessing firsthand their meticulous efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of our facilities.

Next, I will be spending time with Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS). You can find out more about SPS on page 11 with our interview with former apprentice Josh Tobin.

We are proud to announce that the HPC Community Fund has reached a milestone, awarding over £15 million to local groups. You can read more on pages 12 and 13.

Editor’s note

Welcome to the latest issue of Plugged in, the Hinkley Point C magazine for the community.

As always, it’s a busy time for the project. This month I had the pleasure of meeting some of the local charities and organisations benefitting from the HPC Community Fund. We are pleased to report that we’ve now given £15 million of grants to community organisations.

It’s also great to see that wildlife is flourishing at the Hinkley Point C site, with new species being spotted in the area (see page 14), along with the work to inspire individuals into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. Team members James and Phillip share how they’ve been engaging and educating the younger generation on page 7.

We understand the importance of community to Hinkley Point C and would love to hear from you. If you have any questions, stories to share, or topics you’d like us to feature in future editions, please let us know using the contact details on the left.

Stacy Walker, Plugged in Editor

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORT

Hinkley Point C has its own Apprentice and Skills Hub that provides a welcoming environment to help the project’s apprentices and trainees develop – and this year marks its fifth anniversary.

The Hub allows visitors access to career guidance, courses, IT equipment and training. It’s also used for events such as apprenticeship introductions and wellbeing sessions. You can find out more about how Hinkley Point C supports its apprentices on page 7.

Hinkley Point C benefits from a diverse workforce drawn from all over Britain, Europe and the rest of the world. A team of chaplains are available to all workers, helping to provide pastoral and spiritual care ensuring everyone feels supported; this is a first on a major construction project.

The mental wellbeing of team members is important at Hinkley Point C. The chaplains encourage everyone to feel able to be themselves at work. They represent all faiths and none, offering a listening ear, and are ready to talk through any concerns in a non-judgmental and impartial manner.

Site chaplain Ewen Huffman (pictured back row, second from right), is the first paid chaplain in the UK construction industry.

He leads the team of seven volunteer associate chaplains, some of whom are active in the local community as ministers and school governors.

Ewen said: “We listen, reflect and are here for everyone. We journey with people and we do ceremonies (little and large, site-wide or with a team who may be bereaved). We support faith and belief – which is a big part of who people are – and this is respected on site.”

Promoting safety

As well as providing pastoral care, Ewen is involved in the coordination of the Hinkley Point C Safe Day, Safe Month Fund. The initiative was developed to drive safety on the project while supporting charitable organisations – with a donation of £50 to a local cause for every successful Safe Day and £3,000 for a Safe Month.

The Woodland Warrior Programme recently received £5,400 from the fund during a presentation ceremony assisted by Ewen (pictured). The next recipient is Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a local charity that provides life-saving, pre-hospital critical care to patients in need.

An act of kindness

When local GP Dr Suzanne Cavaghan approached Ewen to help organise a trip for more than 100 people living in temporary accommodation in North Petherton, he jumped at the chance to provide support.

On-site catering provider Somerset Larder generously donated meals for the families. The food fuelled a lively visit to a soft play centre in what was a fun-filled occasion appreciated by all.

Chaplain chat

A word from associate chaplain, Chris Pollard

“I’m a local lad, brought up in North Petherton. I’m currently a school governor and help to run youth groups. I also spend time at Hinkley Point C, working closely with the team that transports people to and from site – Somerset Passenger Solutions.

“In everything I have done, spending time listening to people has featured heavily. On the project, I’ve had both general conversations and deep discussions over life issues that have affected people – often nothing to do with their work lives. Sometimes they need an impartial ear so they can feel free to talk, and this is where I come in – with an open heart. It is a real privilege to be trusted by people with their story.”
Hinkley Point C got the green light

04 Pluggedin

association with lightning strikes and electricians, she is also known for her As the patron saint of tunnellers and played an important role for centuries. Historically, building tunnels could be very risky, so people turned to Saint Barbara for protection. Saint Barbara has been very risky, so people turned to Saint Barbara for protection. Saint Barbara has been much safer today, elements of this tradition are still carried out at Hinkley Point C. Ewen Huffman, Site Chaplain, has led a number of these ceremonies on site, which involves offering prayers for the safety of all those involved and the success of the task. Ewen said: “It’s such a privilege to do these ceremonies. Many people on site are praying for the important work we do here, and it needs to continue as safety and success are important to us – so we enlist all the help we can.” Even though the three main tunnels at Hinkley Point C have been constructed, the mining and excavation works connecting them to the large structures (known as heads) on the bottom of the seabed are still in progress.

Raising the roof

The Turbine Hall has recently seen some impressive progress that really raised the roof! That’s because four enormous steel roof trusses, each weighing up to 150 tonnes, were lifted into place.

The Turbine Hall has recently seen some impressive progress that really raised the roof! That’s because four enormous steel roof trusses, each weighing up to 150 tonnes, were lifted into place.

Two cranes were required for the lifting. The world’s largest land-based crane, Big Carl, lifted the trusses into the Turbine Hall before a smaller crane was used to carefully manoeuvre them into their correct position on top of the building’s steel structure.

With careful planning, the team managed to reduce the time it took for the positioning. The second truss was positioned in just six hours, compared to the 10 hours it took for the first. Now all four are in place, the Turbine Hall is ready for the next steps including installing the roof and cladding to the walls, preparing for the arrival of the world’s largest steam turbine.

WHAT’S IN THE TURBINE HALL?

Inside the Turbine Hall, you will find the world’s largest turbine. It’s powered by steam from the reactor and spins at 1,500 revolutions per minute. This spinning motion connects to a generator that will eventually produce low carbon electricity for three million homes.

Seven years ago Hinkley Point C received its Final Investment Decision (FID), which gave the go-ahead for construction to start. Here are a few of the highlights between then and now.

2016:
Hinkley Point C got the green light from the government to start work on the first new nuclear power station in a generation.

2017:
The main civil engineering works contractor, Bylor, completed the first pour of nuclear safety concrete in the technical galleries. This concrete pour formed the foundations of the underground technical galleries and the service tunnel network.

2018:
Hinkley Campus opened its doors in June 2018. Consisting of 15 blocks and 510 bedrooms, the campus was the first purpose-built accommodation site for team members working on the project. This was soon followed by Sedgemoor Campus in Bridgwater, which launched later in the year.

2019:
Hinkley Point C launched its first annual socio-economic report, which tracked the significant social and economic benefits delivered by the project.

2020:
The crane named Big Carl successfully lifted the first reactor’s first steel liner into place on Unit 2’s Nuclear Island, taking lessons learned from the Unit 1 lift in 2019.

2021:
Hinkley Point C trained 750 apprentices, three quarters of the way to its target of creating 3,000 apprenticeships during the project’s construction phase. This milestone was reached in 2022, well ahead of schedule. Today, apprenticeship opportunities are available across the project in a huge variety of specialisms.

2022:
The installation of six large structures – known as heads – on the Bristol Channel seabed was completed safely and successfully. The heads make up a vital part of the site’s cooling water system.

2023:
A significant milestone is still to come. Later this year, the domed roof will be carefully lifted on top of the first reactor building.

2016:
Hinkley Point C received its Final Investment Decision (FID), which gave the go-ahead for construction to start.

2017:
The main civil engineering works contractor, Bylor, completed the first pour of nuclear safety concrete in the technical galleries. This concrete pour formed the foundations of the underground technical galleries and the service tunnel network.

2018:
Hinkley Campus opened its doors in June 2018. Consisting of 15 blocks and 510 bedrooms, the campus was the first purpose-built accommodation site for team members working on the project. This was soon followed by Sedgemoor Campus in Bridgwater, which launched later in the year.

2019:
Hinkley Point C launched its first annual socio-economic report, which tracked the significant social and economic benefits delivered by the project.

2020:
The crane named Big Carl successfully lifted the first reactor’s first steel liner into place on Unit 2’s Nuclear Island, taking lessons learned from the Unit 1 lift in 2019.

2021:
Hinkley Point C trained 750 apprentices, three quarters of the way to its target of creating 3,000 apprenticeships during the project’s construction phase. This milestone was reached in 2022, well ahead of schedule. Today, apprenticeship opportunities are available across the project in a huge variety of specialisms.

2022:
The installation of six large structures – known as heads – on the Bristol Channel seabed was completed safely and successfully. The heads make up a vital part of the site’s cooling water system.

2023:
A significant milestone is still to come. Later this year, the domed roof will be carefully lifted on top of the first reactor building.
**A SPOTLIGHT ON:**

**THE WELDING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Opened in 2020, the Welding Centre of Excellence is a purpose-built facility designed to support local people in accessing highly skilled welding careers through a range of different courses.

Where is it based?
The centre is located at the Bridgwater Campus of Bridgwater & Taunton College – around 12 miles from Hinkley Point C.

What is the purpose of the centre?
The Welding Centre of Excellence is busy providing a range of training courses for new welders or those who are looking to develop and enhance their current skills. It allows people to start or develop their career in welding with equipment and facilities to help them learn the tools of the trade. The centre plays a key role in guiding students towards technical careers, and benefitting employers throughout the South West by providing a highly skilled workforce. This contributes to the community and is helping provide a boost for the local economy.

What do the students think?
Carly Munroe (pictured, inset) trained as a Pipe Fitter at the centre. She said: “One of the best parts of the course was constructing a toolbox from scratch using the welding skills I learned. The trainers on the course are excellent. I would tell anyone thinking about doing a course in welding to go for it!”

For more information, scan the QR code to the right.

**FIVE MINUTES WITH...**

**SIMON LAFFERTY**

Mechanical, Electrical and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (MEH) activity – fitting cables and pipes at Hinkley Point C – is ramping up. So there’s no better time to catch up with the project’s new MEH Programme Director, Simon Lafferty.

How does it feel to be back?
“I was involved with the MEH team from the early years. When the opportunity came about to rejoin the project after moving back from Australia, it was a no-brainer. I have so many friends here from before, and they’ve made the transition easy.”

What are your priorities for MEH?
“MEH already has 700 people and that number should pretty much double by this time next year. We have a lot of talented people and it’s my job to make sure they’re in the right position to succeed. This means getting what the team needs ready in the right sequence and at the right time.”

How would you describe MEH’s input?
“What has been done so far has been great. We’re trying to achieve what has not been done in the UK for 30 years. We’re setting the benchmark. I once saw a poster that a child had designed to promote a windfarm. The message that a child had designed to promote a windfarm. The message...”

And the community connection?
“I know the project has a strong relationship with the community – so much has changed even since I have returned. I remember when we were still forming the MEH Alliance, the project was just a piece of green land. It’s completely changed now – there’s a massive shift in local employment, I’m meeting a lot more apprentices within MEH from the local area, and I’m seeing the positive benefits from this project.”

**INSPIRING AND EDUCATING**

Hundreds of Somerset students have come face to face with Big Carl, the world’s largest land-based crane, as part of Hinkley Point C’s work to inspire young people into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.

As well as a coach tour of the site, children have benefited from lively presentations, as schools are supported with topics relevant to the curriculum. As Hinkley Point C continues to work with local schools and colleges, this activity is helping to build an understanding of nuclear energy and its role in the future energy mix.

James Mansfield, Visit Coordinator and Education Specialist (pictured above, left), is a key part of Hinkley Point C’s Visits team, organising school and community trips to the site. So far this year, the team has welcomed 38 different schools, universities and colleges, visited three schools to deliver assemblies and workshops, and represented the project at various events, including the Cheltenham Science Festival.

James said: “Sharing the science behind what we do helps to explain the misconceptions which some may have about nuclear. It also empowers young people to have a more informed opinion around the important work Hinkley Point C is doing to help Britain achieve net zero.”

**Support for apprentices**

Building a nuclear power station requires a range of skills and specialists and as a result provides an opportunity for people to train and develop a future career. And with more than 1,000 apprenticeship starts on the project so far, it’s important that each individual feels supported.

Hinkley Point C’s Apprentice Wellbeing Programme helps those embarking on their educational journey by providing advice on everything from gambling harm reduction and money management to physical health and emotional wellbeing.

Recent sessions include: Coffee with Rob Jordan. Once every six weeks, eight apprentices get the chance to speak with Project Construction Director Rob Jordan on a personal level. This opportunity allows current apprentices to hear about Rob’s career journey – he started out as an apprentice himself – as well as benefit from any advice shared.

Stand Against Violence. Based in Taunton, Stand Against Violence is a local charity with a vision to enable people to live without violence. These sessions cover effective communication, conflict resolution, and bullying and harassment prevention, working on areas such as listening, prioritisation and resilience to ensure apprentices develop transferable skills to last a lifetime.

For further information on Young HPC, scan the QR code above.
Hinkley Point C has installed the Reactor Pressure Vessel support ring. Weighing an impressive 55 tonnes, the support ring was lifted into position in September.

The installation of the support ring allows the Reactor Pressure Vessel to be lifted into place in 2024.

The support ring was lifted into position ahead of schedule, to allow work to progress in other areas and ensure the project remains on course for the dome lift at the end of the year. This step involves positioning the metal domed roof onto the reactor building, completing the building surrounding the nuclear reactor.

This will be a hugely symbolic moment for the project and will change the skyline of the power station.

**THE SUPPORT RING IN NUMBERS**

**WEIGHT:** 54.6 TONNES

**HEIGHT:** 1.9M

**DIAMETER:** 8.2M

The support ring was transported to Hinkley Point C via Combwich Wharf, where it arrived by barge.

The support ring (inset) was craned over the reactor building and lowered into place in a meticulous operation.

The Reactor Pressure Vessel, which has already arrived at Hinkley Point C, will be installed on top of the support ring.

The ring had to be steered and landed with precision, with minute adjustments made to achieve the completion of the milestone.
Bridgwater is booming

New research is highlighting the wider benefits that Hinkley Point C is bringing to the local area. Hinkley Point C is playing a major role in transforming the fortunes of its local area, according to new research by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Bridgwater and West Somerset, once seen as being too remote, with not enough jobs and an ageing population, has instead become a success story – outperforming many areas across the wider region.

In 2017, The Guardian reported that West Somerset was bottom in a UK league table for social mobility – but Bridgwater’s long-term focus and investment into education, skills development and business support is now clearly making a difference, not only in building the capability of local companies but to the lives of thousands of local people.

The new research shows that Hinkley Point C has helped young people stay here in Somerset, with the 25-39 population up by almost 50% in Sedgemoor. The project’s closest town of Bridgwater is booming with productivity growing faster than anywhere else in the region and well above the national average. There has been a 28% increase in local employment and a 100% increase in large companies setting up.

Scott White, Sales Manager, said:

“I live in Bridgwater and was looking at going to college, but then I saw an advert for Hinkley Point C apprenticeships and was interested in applying. During my time as an apprentice, I learned a lot and took on more and more responsibility. Afterwards, I was delighted to accept a full-time job at SPS.”

What does it mean to be an Operations Scheduler?

“I’m responsible for the smooth running of the bus timetable and making sure any changes are brought in with minimum fuss and disruption for team members and the local community. We want to remove the worry for team members at Hinkley Point C and ensure that when they want to get to and from work, there’s a bus waiting for them.”

Hi Josh. Can you tell us how you got involved with the project?

“I live in Bridgwater and was looking at going to college, but then I saw an advert for Hinkley Point C apprenticeships and was interested in applying. During my time as an apprentice, I learned a lot and took on more and more responsibility. Afterwards, I was delighted to accept a full-time job at SPS.”

What’s the best thing about working at Hinkley Point C and SPS?

“The sense of togetherness. It’s like a beehive – everyone has their own tasks but we’re working towards the common goal of building Britain’s next nuclear power station. It’s great because Hinkley Point C has created a new lease of life to Bridgwater by bringing more opportunities, which will in turn boost the economy and benefit the community.”

DID YOU KNOW?

SPS has a fleet of more than 160 buses and transports around 10,000 people to and from Hinkley Point C each day.

COMMUNITY COMMUTES

SPS runs a scheduled free community bus from Monday to Friday connecting Bridgwater and Minehead, while serving the smaller villages along the route. The service runs three times a day (in both directions) and is available to those who would otherwise need to travel by car or taxi.

To make this service as effective as possible, the team listens to feedback from the public. Josh added: “We recently received a request for more time in between runs, allowing more flexibility before catching a return bus. In response, we adjusted the schedule. We’re always happy to receive feedback and make those improvements that benefit the community.”

REAPING THE REWARDS

One local company thriving, thanks to its partnership with Hinkley Point C, is Bridgwater-based precision engineering firm Berry & Escott. After six years of supporting other large companies involved in the project, Berry & Escott has secured its own contracts as a primary supplier to the project.

SME Business, Sales Manager, said: “We’ve had some of the highest levels of involvement on the project and recognition of our expertise alongside some of the biggest companies in the world. It’s phenomenal and paves the way for us to secure further contracts, including at Sizewell C in Suffolk. It will also allow us to grow. We currently employ 55 local people, including six apprentices. We are planning to create a further 20 jobs and will continue to train the young engineers of the future.”

GOING WITH THE FLOW

Berry & Escott will now design the flow loop simulator and will tender for the build and installation. The training simulator is similar to one they’ve previously installed at Bridgwater’s National College for Nuclear. Chris Escott, Berry & Escott Director, said: “We are tremendously proud that future nuclear engineers will be using equipment we design as part of their training at Hinkley Point C.”

28% increase in local employment.

100% increase in large companies setting up.
Celebrating six years of positive impact

Since 2017, the HPC Community Fund has proudly granted a remarkable £15 million to support local projects and initiatives. Discover how this funding is making a meaningful difference.

From granting £1.25 million to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival to funding an £800 history publication for Sedgemoor, the HPC Community Fund has been making a real impact since it launched in November 2017.

Managed by Somerset Community Foundation, the fund awards grants to local projects and works to maximise the opportunities Hinkley Point C has to offer for residents.

The HPC Community Fund consists of two main programmes: the Small Grants Programme, offering grants of up to £10,000 over one year or £20,000 over three years, and the Open Grants Programme, for larger applications from charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises.

Numerous projects have already benefited, including Bridgwater and Taunton Deaf Club’s monthly support sessions, music workshops for Dunster Festival, and the mental health organisation Seed of Hope CIC’s recovery through nature programme in Sedgemoor.

Justin Sargent OBE, Chief Executive, Somerset Community Foundation, said: “Hinkley Point C is the biggest development that Somerset has ever seen. It’s making a big difference to the lives of many and is bringing so many new opportunities.”

In 2022/2023, the HPC Community Fund was responsible for...

57 grants and £2.6m+ of new grants

£15 million

£20m commitment by Hinkley Point C to fund local projects and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

£1.25m awarded to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival.

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022/2023, the HPC Community Fund was responsible for...

57 grants and £2.6m+ of new grants

£15 million

£20m commitment by Hinkley Point C to fund local projects and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

£1.25m awarded to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival.

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

L–R: Brothers Jett and Finley Jackson are able to enjoy playing together now, thanks to the newly installed wheelchair accessible swing at Wembdon play area.

INSPIRATIONAL SUMMER

With support from the HPC Community Fund, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge enjoyed a summer filled with open-air live performances, a flower festival and a free play day at Apex Park. Local community groups were presented with more than £55,000 to invigorate their outdoor events, which also helped The Avenue Tennis Club install energy-efficient floodlights, allowing evening use of the courts.

Rose Pike, Chair of the Sedgemoor Playday Committee, said: “It’s important that local families can access green spaces and get involved in fun, physical activities. “Our hope is to encourage children into joining clubs promoting health and wellbeing.”

Looking to receive support for your organisation or project? The HPC Community Fund welcomes applications from registered charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, parishes and town councils.

For more information on a list of grant programmes, submission deadlines and how to apply, visit hpcfunds.co.uk or scan the QR code to the right.

ENERGISING A COMMUNITY CHURCH

Thanks to a £220,000 grant awarded in 2022, Bridgwater Baptist Church has undergone a renovation, and its new space is proving popular with local groups. Offices are in demand and the wellbeing cafe provides a welcoming and safe environment. A lift was also added for accessibility.

Reverend Tim Langdon said: “We’re keen to support start-up organisations that want to help the community. We’ve already seen a need for our enterprise hub, which has eight affordable offices.”

SPOTLIGHT ON WEMBDON

Since 2018, Wembdon has received a total of £163,404 in grants for local initiatives – and the support is making a lasting impact. There have been improvements to the cricket club’s playing field, the rejuvenation of recreational woodlands, and the organisation of community cookery classes. This year, young people felt the benefits with a boost of almost £40,000 towards improved club facilities and accessible play equipment.

Anne Reed from Wembdon Parish Council said: “We’ve received positive feedback from the users of the accessible swings, and their families and carers. “We’ve seen the swings used on a daily basis and it’s been wonderful to see children with health conditions or impairments playing on the purpose built equipment.”

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

Spotlight on Wembdon

In 2022/2023, the HPC Community Fund was responsible for...

57 grants and £2.6m+ of new grants

£15 million

£20m commitment by Hinkley Point C to fund local projects and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

£1.25m awarded to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival.

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022/2023, the HPC Community Fund was responsible for...

57 grants and £2.6m+ of new grants

£15 million

£20m commitment by Hinkley Point C to fund local projects and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

£1.25m awarded to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival.

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

L–R: Brothers Jett and Finley Jackson are able to enjoy playing together now, thanks to the newly installed wheelchair accessible swing at Wembdon play area.

INSPIRATIONAL SUMMER

With support from the HPC Community Fund, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge enjoyed a summer filled with open-air live performances, a flower festival and a free play day at Apex Park. Local community groups were presented with more than £55,000 to invigorate their outdoor events, which also helped The Avenue Tennis Club install energy-efficient floodlights, allowing evening use of the courts.

Rose Pike, Chair of the Sedgemoor Playday Committee, said: “It’s important that local families can access green spaces and get involved in fun, physical activities. “Our hope is to encourage children into joining clubs promoting health and wellbeing.”

Looking to receive support for your organisation or project? The HPC Community Fund welcomes applications from registered charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, parishes and town councils.

For more information on a list of grant programmes, submission deadlines and how to apply, visit hpcfunds.co.uk or scan the QR code to the right.

ENERGISING A COMMUNITY CHURCH

Thanks to a £220,000 grant awarded in 2022, Bridgwater Baptist Church has undergone a renovation, and its new space is proving popular with local groups. Offices are in demand and the wellbeing cafe provides a welcoming and safe environment. A lift was also added for accessibility.

Reverend Tim Langdon said: “We’re keen to support start-up organisations that want to help the community. We’ve already seen a need for our enterprise hub, which has eight affordable offices.”

SPOTLIGHT ON WEMBDON

Since 2018, Wembdon has received a total of £163,404 in grants for local initiatives – and the support is making a lasting impact. There have been improvements to the cricket club’s playing field, the rejuvenation of recreational woodlands, and the organisation of community cookery classes. This year, young people felt the benefits with a boost of almost £40,000 towards improved club facilities and accessible play equipment.

Anne Reed from Wembdon Parish Council said: “We’ve received positive feedback from the users of the accessible swings, and their families and carers. “We’ve seen the swings used on a daily basis and it’s been wonderful to see children with health conditions or impairments playing on the purpose built equipment.”

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

Spotlight on Wembdon

In 2022/2023, the HPC Community Fund was responsible for...

57 grants and £2.6m+ of new grants

£15 million

£20m commitment by Hinkley Point C to fund local projects and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

£1.25m awarded to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival.

£800 funding for a history publication for Sedgemoor.

L–R: Brothers Jett and Finley Jackson are able to enjoy playing together now, thanks to the newly installed wheelchair accessible swing at Wembdon play area.
BRIDGWATER CARNIVAL IS BACK

Bridgewater Carnival is just around the corner and for the second successive year, Hinkley Point C will be the main event sponsor.

It’s one of the oldest carnivals in the UK and one of the largest in Europe. The celebrations will take place on Saturday 4th November and see tens of thousands of people flooding the streets of Bridgewater for an evening of excitement and creativity.

Mike Crocker, President for Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival, said: “Community events like this rely very heavily on the support we receive from the local business sector, and if it wasn’t for this, our carnival would not be as popular or successful as it is.”

The event sponsor this year, Hinkley Point C will be the main corner and for the second successive year, Hinkley Point C will be the main sponsor.

Bridgwater Carnival is just around the corner and for the second successive year, Hinkley Point C will be the main sponsor. From 10:30, the town will be jam-packed with street entertainment to build excitement for the parade. There will be almost 100 entries in total, including more than 45 illuminated carnival carts. The main procession will kick off at 18:00 to delight those lining the route. The carnival will close with Bridgewater’s traditional squibbing display, which consists of the simultaneous firing of large fireworks (squibs). This year, approximately 200 squibbers will line the town’s high street immediately after the procession to launch the dazzling display. For those unable to make it, the carnival is also being streamed live. Visit bridgewatercarnival.org.uk to find out more.

Flourishing wildlife

The space south of the Hinkley Point C construction site has undergone a transformation, evolving into an ecosystem known as the Southern Landscape Area. Initially a repository for construction soil, this area has blossomed into grasslands and woodlands, with a range of wildlife, from hedgehogs and kingfishers to moths and bain owls.

The construction site boundary was relocated in 2019, allowing the Southern Landscape Area to flourish. Former water management zones were repurposed into wildlife ponds, becoming sanctuaries for various species. Two woodlands were also planted along with nine hectares of wildflower meadow. Ongoing habitat management efforts led by Hinkley Point C have encouraged an increase in biodiversity. New inhabitants, such as lures, grass snakes and their offspring have been observed.

Chris Dennis, Associate Director of Ecology and Ornithology at WSP, said: “The Southern Landscape Area is exceeding expectations in terms of what we are recording, which is a really promising sign, as the project aims to result in a positive outcome for biodiversity.”

Did you know?

Hinkley Point C will be using 230,000 tonnes of steel rebar (metal bars used to strengthen concrete), which is enough to build a Railway from London to Rome.

Powering up

To create electricity, all generators need an energy source. Take a look at these images and see if you can name their energy sources.

KID’S CORNER

It’s all fun and games on our children’s activity page…
There’s no place like Hinkley Point C

Hinkley Point C is unique. It’s a project that’s setting the standard for the future industry of new nuclear. And YOU can be a part of it. With support from the Hinkley Point C Jobs Service, you can:

- Get support with CV writing and applications
- Attend local community drop-in sessions and recruitment events
- Get early visibility of roles available on the project.

Register for free at hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com.