

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025 – 2026 AND HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Balance brought forward from 2024/25	£456.67
Awarded for distribution 2025/26	£57,563.66
Available for distribution 2026/26	£58,020.33

Community Benefit Grants applications awarded 2 June 2025

Melbourn Library	£200.00
Melbourn Hub Lunch Club	£3,500.00
St Georges Allotment	£1,487.31
Melbourn Dynamos Football Club	£7,734.00
Community Support for Dementia	£5,798.00
Melbourn Fete Committee	£3,000.00
All Saints Church	£3,655.00
Melbourn District Warden Scheme	£3,000.00
Melbourn Primary School PTFA	£6,003.99
1st Orwell Scouts	£3,475.12
Total awarded June 2025:	£37,853.42

Available for distribution December 2025: **£20,0166.91**

Community Benefit Grants applications awarded 3 December 2025

Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire	£4,247.82
Melbourn Baptist Church	£2,153.99
Melbourn Squash Club (awarded 75% of requested)	£975.00
Mix Music (awarded 80% of requested)	£6,560.00
Turn on to Christmas	£1,280.00
Total awarded December 2025:	£15,216.81
<i>Balance to carry forward:</i>	<i>£4,950.10</i>

Melbourn Library

Some of the items purchased with the Melbourn Parish Council grant:

£80	on general book stock (not from s.106 funds)
£58	on children's story time books
£20	on a puppet for children's story time
£28.50	on musical instruments for children's story time
£26	on book stands to display new books
£10	on children's DVDs for showing at the library
£25	on board books for World Book Day which have been and will be distributed to new mums and mums to be

Janet Backer, Treasurer

St Georges Allotment

The St George's Allotment Association applied for and received a Melbourn Parish Council Community Grant in June 2025 to cover the hire cost of two 8-yard general waste skips (one for early summer and one for autumn), to purchase soil improver for use on the allotments and to purchase security locks and chains to improve site security. The grant received (£1487.31) was comprised of £720.00 for hire of two skips, £514.80 for purchase and delivery of ~10 tonnes of soil improver and £252.51 for three security locks and chains. Both skips were hired and the soil improver was delivered during the year. One lock and chain has been purchased so far and the remaining will be purchased once new security gates have been installed later this year.

Soil Improver

The known benefits of using soil improver as a mulch include improved soil structure, increased moisture retention, good weed suppression and better crop growth. The improved soil fertility will also benefit future plot holders as well as the current ones. The delivery of a lorry load of soil improver from Envar in Somersham, near Huntingdon, was arranged with Melbourn based A J Grab Hire Ltd, and on the 9th October 2025 they duly delivered ~10 tonnes of lovely black gold, see photo below. The soil improver was available to all plot holders and within a few weeks had been wheel-barrowed to individual plots by the holders. The soil improver is generated from waste food and vegetation collected from households around the county and composted under ideal conditions by Envar.

Waste Clearance Skip Hire

Two 8-yard general waste skips were hired from the Mick George Group and delivered to the allotments on 1st July and 24th October 2025. Plot holders rapidly filled both skips by clearing non-compostable assorted rubbish from their plots, such as broken wire fencing, rusted metal, broken glass, waste plastic, etc., see photo.

This project is beneficial to all of the St Georges Allotment community and resulted in many tidier allotments. Having less rubbish on their allotments not only benefited the current plot holders but also provides legacy value to future tenants. It also benefited the local environment by removing environmentally harmful materials such as plastic and provides safer conditions for plot holders to tend their plots. It complements the ongoing work by the council to reduce the amount of asbestos cement fragments on the allotments.

Conclusion

The hire of two skips and the purchase and delivery of soil improver have been completed; and the remaining security equipment will be purchased shortly.

St Georges Allotment Association



Melbourn Dynamos Football Club



Report on 2025 MPC Grant Spend – Melbourn Dynamos Football Club

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a grant of **£7,734** from Melbourn Parish Council. This funding has provided **vital** support to the Club during a period of continued growth, enabling investment in volunteer development, player welfare, inclusive coaching, and essential infrastructure. This report outlines how the grant has been allocated and the impact achieved.

Details of Expenditure and Utilisation

1. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training for Volunteers

The grant funded MHFA training for eight Club volunteers.

- These volunteers joined through the formation of new teams and represent an important extension of our safeguarding and welfare network.
- The training equips volunteers to recognise, respond to, and support mental health challenges affecting players, parents, and fellow volunteers.
- This investment continues the Club's long-term commitment to embedding mental health awareness and early intervention within grassroots sport.

2. Final Phase of Club-Wide Kit Renewal

The grant supported the final stage of our two-year kit renewal programme.

- Updated kits have now been rolled out across remaining teams.
- This has improved equality of provision, reduced reliance on ageing or mismatched kit, and strengthened Club identity.
- Players, particularly younger members, have expressed increased pride and belonging associated with representing the Club in new kit.

3. Starter Equipment

Funding enabled the purchase of one FA trial equipment set.

- This includes smaller-format goals and age-appropriate training equipment.
- The equipment begins to support more player-centred training models aligned with the FA's FutureFit framework, due to become nationally mandated in coming years.
- Early adoption allows the Club to trial formats that particularly benefit younger players and neurodiverse children, promoting greater engagement, more touches on the ball, and improved confidence.
- We are extremely grateful to the council for this.

4. Neurodiversity Training for Volunteers

The grant funded two places on a specialist course in understanding neurodiversity in grassroots football.

- Volunteers gained practical strategies for supporting players with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and related conditions.
- The training has influenced session planning, communication approaches, and behavioural support techniques.

- This investment directly strengthens our inclusive capability and supports broader community wellbeing priorities.

5. GDPR Compliance and Club Administration Infrastructure

The grant provided partial support for GDPR-compliant administration systems.

- Funding offset subscription costs associated with LoveAdmin.
- This supports secure management of player registrations, safeguarding records, volunteer data, and communications.
- As a volunteer-led organisation now serving over 350 players and 80+ volunteers, robust data protection processes are essential to governance, safeguarding, and operational resilience.

Impact on the Club and Community

The Parish Council's support has delivered measurable benefits:

- **Enhanced Player Welfare** – Expanded MHFA coverage improves early recognition and support for mental health concerns.
- **Greater Inclusivity** – Neurodiversity training and age-appropriate equipment support children who may otherwise struggle in traditional formats.
- **Equality and Belonging** – Club-wide kit renewal promotes fairness, identity, and morale across teams.
- **Stronger Governance** – GDPR-compliant systems protect members and reduce organisational risk.

Beneficiaries:

Over 350 players, 80+ volunteers, and the wider Melbourn community have benefited either directly or indirectly from these initiatives.

Acknowledgements

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club extends sincere thanks to **Melbourn Parish Council** for its continued investment in grassroots sport, community wellbeing, and inclusive participation.

This grant has supported not only equipment and training, but the development of a safer, more inclusive, and more resilient Club environment.

We value the Parish Council's partnership and look forward to continuing to serve the Melbourn community.

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club

Ian Henderson
Club Treasurer
February 2026

Community Support for Dementia

What happened in 2025...

The need for the support in our local community for those 'living with dementia' and family members supporting them is growing at an alarming rate.

During 2025 we held twelve Memory Cafes offering social stimulation, in a safe and inclusive environment. The maximum number of people attending a Memory Café was 60. With at least 45-50 attending every time. We continue to see new people and sadly have lost members along the way to this progressive disease.

We also introduced Dementia Sing-Alongs, on the second Friday of each month. These have proved be very successful and continue to attract newcomers. 12 Sessions were held in 2025.

The Daily Sparkle membership, has an amazing app, giving us constant resources for our Memory Cafes and Sing-Alongs. The Daily Sparkle Newspapers give hours of entertainment at home for those 'living with dementia'. It has an array of crosswords, wordsearches, quizzes and puzzles. These are very popular and are constantly being requested by family members.

We had our annual trip to The Hut in Felixstowe. A fantastic resource run by a charity available to groups such as ours. This trip is always popular and is often the last time that people will get to see the sea and have fish and chips served in newspaper, finished off with ice cream and a cup of tea!

We held two Dementia Workshops, giving those supporting an individual 'living with dementia' greater understanding of the condition and learn skills to aid communication and interactions.

We purchased new equipment, for sensory and visual stimulation. Animatronic animals, musical instruments, fidget blankets, games, books, frame bags. In addition to this, we have many volunteers and family members who are constantly making sensory blankets and mitts.

Support was given to carers who were really struggling to cope by dementia specialist Chris Elsley.

We very much thank Melbourn Parish Council for the financial support given, which was a tremendous help, and enabled us to deliver this support to our community.

Davina Biswell, Stephanie Trayhurn

Melbourn Fete Committee

The Melbourn Fete Committee received a grant from the MPC Community Grant Fund of £3,000 to underwrite the staging of Melbourn Fete in June 2025. The funds were requested to cover the unavoidable costs which would have been written off if the event were cancelled.

The grant was spent as follows:

Item	Expenditure
PA System	£1,200.00
Insurance	£462.00
Fee for inflatables	£2,000.00
Total	£3,662.00

The additional expenditure was taken from the Melbourn Fete Committee funds. Melbourn Fete Committee is grateful for the continued support from Melbourn Parish Council. MPC's commitment enables us to stage important events for the community such as the Fete, Turn on to Christmas and Open Gardens each year. Money raised from the 2025 Fete was donated to fifteen local causes.

C M Carter, Treasurer

All Saints Church

Community Benefit Grant of £3,655.00 awarded by Melbourn Parish Council to All Saints Parochial Church Council in June 2025.

The Parish Council kindly provided a Community Benefit grant to Melbourn Parochial Church Council to help towards the costs of removal of pews and existing flooring at the rear of the church, to enable the development of a flexible space.

The work to develop the space was started last summer, including removing the pews and the flooring beneath, as set out in our application. The grant has also helped us raise a further £24,000 from other trusts (with hopefully more to follow - we have more applications under consideration).

The aim was to then remove the remainder of the flooring before installing a new stone floor, as the first phase of the overall development. However, removing the pews revealed a brick chamber and a large diameter pipe leading to it from the tower. This must predate the pews, installed in 1854. While this has delayed the project, it has revealed a hitherto unknown element of the church's history.

We think it may be part of a Georgian or early Victorian heating system, but have been required by the Diocese of Ely to pause the work while an archaeological investigation is undertaken.



The archaeologist visited in January and we are awaiting the report. Once received, we hope to complete the flooring, which will enable us to use the space for community events as planned.

We will then fundraise for the second phase of the project, new kitchenette and disabled toilet.

We are happy to provide a further update later in the year.

David Jennings, On behalf of All Saints PCC

Melbourn Primary School PTFA

The grant provided by the Parish Council in 2025 was used to cover the cost of the Primary School's PTFA annual fireworks display to keep the ticket price low for the community to attend and to purchase a completion arch for our fun run which we introduced in 2025 for the first time.

The total amount of the grant was £6003.99, which was used as follows:

We used some of the grant to fund the fireworks display at the annual fireworks event held at Melbourn Primary School. It was a hugely successful night and was a sold-out event with 1,300 tickets sold to school families and the wider community. The £3,950 grant covered the cost of the professional fireworks display, which was provided by the professional company, Skyburst. This allowed for the profits made from ticket sales and other sales on the night from the bar, BBQ and stalls to be used for the PTFA's fundraising priorities. This year profits are being put towards funding for updated IT equipment and a new PA system for the school hall with individual microphones for the children to use when they do class assemblies and productions, as well as contributions towards school trips to the theatre, books for the children and easter eggs.

The remaining of the grant has been used to purchase a fun run arch which will be fantastic to have when we run the event this year! Last year was our first event and gave such fun to all the community having a 2k and 5k run for everyone to enjoy. Last year we raised a massive £4345, this year we are hoping to achieve the same if not more but bringing the community together.

On behalf of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA, we would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in awarding this grant and enabling this popular volunteer-run community event to be as successful as it was.

Lauren Nash & Lucy Drage, Melbourn PTFA Co-Chairs

1st Orwell Scouts

Item	Volume	Cost
Vango Sierra 500 Tents	4	£ 410.00
14cm Zebra Loop Handle Cooking Pot	5	£ 145.00
16cm Zebra Loop Handle Cooking Pot	4	£ 131.96
Kitchen Knife Set - Colour coded knives and sheaths	5	£ 64.95
Plastic Chopping Board Sets with food icons	5	£ 49.95
Trangia 25-2 Stove with Pans and Kettle & Gas Burner	8	£ 839.60
Total		£ 1641.46

Tents

4 Vango Sierra 500 5 person tents. These replaced older and now worn-out tents used for Group and District camps. This new Vango tent model is much more robust and 'Scout Proof' than our previous 5 person tents.



Cooking Equipment

The Scouts love cooking both on camp and at Scout meetings. We maintain 5 Patrol Cooking Boxes with all the equipment and utensils for a patrol to be able to cook. These boxes have been in use for over 8 years and required some replacement equipment. We have purchased new knives, chopping boards and two sizes of cooking pots suitable for gas burners.



Expedition Equipment

Scouts must plan and undertake an expedition for their Gold Scout Award, this requires them to carry any food and equipment they need for the hike and camping overnight. We have purchased 8 Trangia Stoves, these are lightweight versatile cooking stoves that are

recommended for Scout and DofE expeditions. We have previously been borrowing from other Scout groups Trangias, so it is great for the group to have our own for future expeditions.



Event Shelter

For use at events and camps, the group has been borrowing or using leaders personal pop-up shelters. Really useful for the group to be able to easily set up for events and keep dry / shaded. It even comes in Scout Purple!



Gareth Bolitho, Group Chairman

Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

We are so grateful for your funding in December 2025, which enabled us to start to provide crucial home-visiting support to three vulnerable Melbourn families. Two families were referred to Home-Start by their Health Visitor and the other family was referred by a Family Support Worker from Intensive Families First Team.

The families' **diverse issues** included:

- Poor parental mental health including anxiety and depression
- Post-natal depression
- Domestic abuse
- Managing difficult parental relationships
- Finding individual time for each child challenging
- Financial difficulties
- Child's physical development requiring ongoing monitoring/treatment
- Lack of local family support
- Isolated
- New to the area with no peer support network in place
- No time to complete household tasks or make calls
- No time to complete paperwork/forms
- Baby with reflux
- Mother unable to put baby down to get on with any tasks at home

Two of the three families have been classed as having complex needs and two have also been managing neurodivergence within the family.

How these families are being supported:

The Community Benefit Grant has enabled our highly-trained volunteers to begin meeting with the families for 2-3 hours every week, providing bespoke practical and emotional support, which is non-judgemental, confidential and free. This included:

- Providing a listening ear and emotional support
- Giving reassurance and positive feedback
- Developing a relationship with mother and baby so volunteer is able to hold baby while mother gets on with tasks, such as feeding herself, making bottles
- Helping to feed and bathe the babies
- Engaging with the children to give mother time to make calls, liaise with housing around concerns about damp in home
- Enabling parent to have 1-1 time with each child by spending time with each child individually
- Signposting for more specialist support where appropriate
- Signposting to foodbank
- Support to buy and prepare low-cost recipes

The **positive changes** we have begun to see and hope to see as support continues include:

- Improved mental health for mother
- Mother feeling less stressed about someone else holding baby
- Mother feeling more able to get household tasks completed
- Parent able to prepare low-cost recipes and access foodbanks when necessary
- Housing appointment to come out to review damp in home
- Mother has more time for each child and feels less guilty

Amanda Hourmand, on behalf of Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

Melbourn Baptist Church

Melbourn Baptist Church were very pleased to be successful in receiving a Community Benefit Grant of £2153.99 in December 2025. This is to be used for the purchase of a defibrillator and external cabinet. At the point of writing, the equipment is currently ordered and we are awaiting delivery. Once with us, the defibrillator will be installed as soon as possible on the outside front wall of the church building.

The defibrillator will be registered on "The Circuit" (the National Defibrillator Network), and will be maintained by the church. It's location on the front wall of the church will make it accessible to anyone in the community who may need it, and we hope that this will provide a welcome addition to other defibrillators already available in the village. We are grateful to the Parish Council for supporting us with this.

Janet Cottenden, on behalf of Melbourn Baptist Church

Melbourn Village College Squash Club

The grant will contribute to annual costs of c. £1200 to retain the services of a professional coach to deliver mid-week sessions for junior players. The money will be spent evenly across the course of the year.

Matthew Walker, Vice-Chair

Mix Music



MIX MUSIC





WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

We have continued to run our regular Monday night sessions, which are still going strong. Although we have lost a couple of attendees this year, we have potentially gained a new starter, which is encouraging.

We are also currently looking at introducing sessions for younger children, with half-hour sessions planned for one term as an initial trial.

Over the past year, we have provided a range of exciting opportunities for the young people involved. Last year, we organised an outing to the We DJ Expo in London, which was an amazing experience. One of our DJs got to perform at Kool FM.

In December, we took the group ice skating in Cambridge for our Christmas outing, which was a great success.

In addition, we delivered three Day Discos for MACS, and we are planning to do the same again this year.



We have many ideas for the future of the project. We had planned to organise a music event following the village fete in June. However, due to a particularly busy start to the year for us personally, and as the project is currently run by just the two of us, we have decided to postpone this until summer 2027. This will allow us to dedicate the time, effort and funding required to organise the event properly and to work more closely with the fete organisers from an earlier stage.

We both give our time on a voluntary basis and are very happy to do so. We are coming into our 4th year of running the sessions and supporting young people in the village.

The start of this year has been a little slower than usual, with many of our regular attendees currently focusing on their GCSE studies. We also tend to find that attendance naturally slows during the winter months, although participation consistently increases again as the year progresses.





Looking ahead, we remain very hopeful that the youth community organiser may become available to help strengthen and expand youth provision in the village and support us with what we need in order to gain access in the schools. In the meantime, we will continue to run our sessions and provide this positive opportunity for young people in the community.

Turn on to Christmas

The Melbourn Fete Committee received a grant from the MPC Community Grant Fund of £1,280 to underwrite the staging of Turn on to Christmas 2025. The funds were requested to cover the unavoidable costs which would have been written off if the event were cancelled.

The grant was spent as follows:

Item	Expenditure
Attractions	£710.00
Lights	£263.78
Christmas Trees (outstanding liability)	£485.00
Total	£1,458.78

The additional expenditure was taken from Melbourn Fete Committee funds.

Melbourn Fete Committee is grateful for the continued support from the MPC. MPC's commitment enables us to stage important events for the community such as the Fete, Turn on to Christmas each year and Open Gardens.

C M Carter, Treasurer
