

**Buxton charity Buxton Civic Association awarded a team of business experts and funding to tackle social and environmental challenges**

Buxton Civic Association (BCA), a Buxton environmental and heritage charity established in 1967 to preserve the fine architecture of Buxton and its natural and formal landscapes for the local community and visitors, has had the impact of its current services and future ambitions recognised with its selection as a 2024 Weston Charity Awards winner.

The award gives the charity the chance to invest in its future with strategic planning support from a dedicated team of four business experts, thanks to pro bono charity [Pilotlight](#), and a core grant of £6,500 from the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#).

Buxton Civic Association was chosen from over 180 applicants, all of which are frontline charities delivering youth, welfare, community or environment services in the North of England, the Midlands and Wales. Other regional charities to be selected are Accommodation Concern, Doddridge Centre Limited and Lincolnshire Action Trust.

Dave Green, CEO from Buxton Civic Association said:

*"As the Chief Executive of BCA I am delighted to have secured this opportunity for the charity, and I would like to thank the Pilotlight team and Garfield Weston Foundation for their support. When one considers that only twelve-percent of applications were successful, it really makes you appreciate how special the opportunity is, and how important the work of BCA is too. In this challenging financial climate, it is vital that our trustees and I take the time to consider both our business positioning and how we further develop our work to serve the community we have worked within for over fifty years. Our selection for this programme is testament to how important Poole's Cavern and the woodlands BCA manage are, both scientifically and as icons within the local landscape. This is an exciting opportunity to build networks and share expertise, shedding further light on what our dedicated team of staff and volunteers achieve. We look forward to gaining further knowledge that will benefit our organisation and local residents in the longer term."*

In congratulating Buxton Civic Association, Sophia Weston, Deputy Chair of Trustees at Garfield Weston Foundation said:

*"In today's world, the challenges facing communities are more complex than ever. We're proud to partner with Pilotlight to support the 24 outstanding charities selected, who are finding innovative ways to combat issues ranging from rising inequality to threats to our natural environment."*

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Ed Mayo, Chief Executive of Pilotlight, the charity which is connecting Buxton Civic Association with a team of coaches drawn from a range of businesses and other organisations said:

*"The Weston Charity Awards provide a lifeline to smaller charities on the frontlines of changing social and environmental needs. Pilotlight is excited to offer our expertise in helping these charities develop strategic plans for the future, ensuring they can maximise their impact and navigate uncertainty."*

### Notes to editors

1. For photography or interview requests please contact [leah.Mycock@buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk](mailto:leah.Mycock@buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk)
2. For enquiries about Garfield Weston Foundation and Pilotlight, please contact Lucy Avery, Marketing Communications Manager 07483 014 779
3. A full list of Weston Charity Awards 2024 winners and a description of their primary services follows. New Heights Warren Farm Community Project and Ricnic were previously announced as winners in 2022 but didn't take up their Award that year. We are pleased to include them in the list of winners this year.

### England

#### North East

- **Eating Distress North East**  
Eating Distress North East is a specialist mental health organisation working in North East England. Its services support people whose lives are disrupted because they experience serious mental and emotional distress caused by psychological trauma, giving rise to harmful eating and behaviours.
- **Handcrafted**  
Handcrafted aims to empower those who have been disadvantaged or faced social exclusion due to crime, alcohol or substance abuse, poor mental or physical health, unemployment, or having experienced abuse or been in the care system.
- **Northern Heartlands**  
Northern Heartlands is a charity based in County Durham bringing the creativity of artists together with individuals, community groups, schools and partner organisations.

#### North West

- **Caring and Sharing Rochdale**  
Caring and Sharing Rochdale is a registered charity that provides practical support and empowerment for people from marginalised backgrounds, with a special focus on Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Communities who grapple with the harsh realities of their backgrounds.

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- **Community Solutions**  
Community Solutions (CS) is a community hub at the heart of its community supporting vulnerable, isolated, and disadvantaged people to improve their health and wellbeing, and to overcome crisis or significant life transitions through co-designed and bespoke support packages, delivered at a pace suited to each person.
- **The Peter Pan Centre**  
The Peter Pan Centre works to give children with special educational needs and disabilities the best start in life and their families the support they deserve. Providing exceptional care, support and education to children from birth to age five with a range of special educational needs, Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.
- **Veterans in Communities**  
Veterans in Communities (VIC) exists to enable ex-forces personnel, emergency services personnel and their families to be a part of their local community. It offers a range of services to support individuals through peer supported activities, such as weekly arts and crafts groups, breakfast clubs/cafes, VIC Choir, walks and outdoor activities and learning opportunities.

### Yorkshire & the Humber

- **Battle Scars**  
Battle Scars is a 100% survivor led and run charity supporting anyone affected by self-harm. It offers support to people of all ages (to date: 18 months to 83 years old) and genders by providing varied support and free resources including a youth journal.
- **Bradford Organic Communities Services Ltd**  
Bradford Organic Communities Services (BOCS) is an environment charity active across Bradford from 2004. With principles of renew, reuse and recycle BOCS seeks to work with local communities to improve health and wellbeing through active participation in its three services: Bradford RePaint, Wisbey Community Gardens and Scrap Magic.
- **Foresight**  
Foresight provides services to enhance lifestyles and improve the overall quality of life for disabled people in North and North East Lincolnshire and surrounding areas. It currently works with over 1,000 disabled people weekly and key activities include: running of two day centres, provision of learning, employability programmes and volunteering opportunities for the wider community.
- **Fumble**  
Fumble is an award-winning youth charity in the UK, leading the way in supporting young people with their mental health, sexual health and relationships in the digital age. It aims to make sure that young people have the skills and knowledge to successfully manage their sexual health, mental health and relationships.
- **Hope Housing (Bradford) Ltd**  
Hope Housing provides supported accommodation for the homeless. It assists people out of homelessness and helps transition them into the next phase of their lives, but this process frequently requires time and does not always happen

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immediately. Instead of merely giving clients a place to live, it offers them a range of support.

### East Midlands

- **Accommodation Concern**  
Accommodation Concern works to prevent and relieve poverty and homelessness in Northamptonshire. It provides supported housing for people who have found themselves homeless and need help to develop independent living skills and be able to manage their own tenancy.
- **Buxton Civic Association - Poole's Cavern & Buxton Country Park**  
Buxton Civic Association (BCA) is a volunteer led environmental heritage charity, caring for the natural and built heritage of the small rural town. Its purpose is to make the lives of those who live, work, and visit Buxton better.
- **Doddridge Centre Limited**  
Doddridge Centre is a community hub offering a variety of support and services to those who live in poverty and deprivation. It works with both individuals and organisations to provide opportunities for growth, support and development and it does this in a manner of different ways, best suited to the individual or families.
- **Lincolnshire Action Trust**  
Lincolnshire Action Trust works with people directly and indirectly impacted by the justice system in Lincolnshire and surrounding counties. Established in 2000 to deliver employability support to people on probation, it now delivers holistic interventions to address individual's housing, employment, substance use, wellbeing, and family needs.

### West Midlands

- **Carers Trust Heart of England**  
Carers Trust Heart of England exists to support unpaid carers of all-ages and to provide care and support in the community for people who have care and support needs. It aims to support carers and those they care for by providing the highest possible quality, individually tailored care support services that improves the lives of carers, the people they care for and their families.
- **Martineau Gardens**  
Martineau Gardens is an urban community garden operating for over 25 years, providing local and wider communities with a safe and welcoming space enabling adults, young people, and children to connect with each other, with nature and improve their wellbeing. It also provides free long-term social and therapeutic horticulture programmes for adults and young people with a wide range of support needs.
- **New Heights Warren Farm Community Project**  
New Heights Warren Farm Community Project meets the needs of vulnerable adults and children in the Kingstanding area in North Birmingham.
- **Ricnic**  
RicNic is a theatre charity that aims to empower young people by providing free access to theatre arts projects.

### Wales

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- **Students Organising for Sustainability**  
SOS-UK is a charity created by the student movement in 2019 in response to the climate emergency and ecological crisis. It exists to support students to be the change that society urgently needs to get us out of the climate emergency and ecological crisis, and to deliver climate justice. Making sustainability more inclusive is a key aspect of SOS-UK's work.
  - **Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel**  
Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel is a network of African communities in Wales applying the lived experiences, skills, capacity and knowledge found within Welsh African diaspora communities for the benefit of all. It does this by implementing development initiatives in Wales and across Sub-Saharan Africa.
  - **The Sanctuary Trust**  
The Sanctuary Trust aims to relieve and prevent homelessness, by addressing the many underlining reasons why people become homeless, whilst taking immediate actions to help people secure safe and affordable accommodation. It has two core objectives: to provide compassionate landlord services to 1000 households; and to add value to the areas it operates in by supporting grassroots groups develop inclusive communities.
  - **Welsh Dee Trust**  
The Welsh Dee Trust is an environmental charity with the objective of ensuring a river Dee is free of pollution and full of wildlife. Its focus is on delivering tangible conservation interventions on the ground, with its work split into five programmes, each tackling specific problems, such as agricultural and other sources of pollution.
4. **About the Weston Charity Awards:** Now in its tenth year, the Awards celebrate and support great frontline charities working in the fields of community, environment, welfare and youth. Funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation and delivered by Pilotlight, charities with incomes under £5 million in the North and Midlands of England, and in Wales can apply. Initially launched in the North East of England in 2014, the Weston Charity Awards quickly expanded to the North West, the Midlands and, in 2018, Wales - areas identified by the Foundation as benefitting the least from strategic support organisations such as Pilotlight. [www.pilotlight.org.uk/weston-charity-awards](http://www.pilotlight.org.uk/weston-charity-awards)
5. **About the Garfield Weston Foundation:**  
Established in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK. In its latest financial year, the Foundation donated over £100 million. Since it was established, it has exceeded donations of more than £1.5 billion, of which well over half has been given in the past ten years.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a

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successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.

Known for its transparency, flexibility and straightforward approach, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities from small community organisations to large national institutions. Around 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants. <https://garfieldweston.org/>

6. About Pilotlight:

Pilotlight is a charity that amplifies the impact charities, business and individuals can bring to make a better world. It creates and manages programmes that address the challenges charities face and provide them with the expertise and resources they need to thrive. Since 1996, it's amplified the work of over 1,000 charities all tackling social disadvantage to ignite change that lasts. [www.pilotlight.org.uk](http://www.pilotlight.org.uk)