

Community Outreach

During the 2025–26 financial year, [Chatham Maritime Trust](#) continued to fulfil its charitable objectives (the Trust's objects cover the provision (directly or indirectly) of recreation and leisure facilities for the Chatham Maritime Estate and its neighbourhood, the Medway Towns, and others who can conveniently make use of them, and provision for the education and assistance of the young and other members of the Medway Towns community in order to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities) by supporting a diverse range of community, educational, and welfare projects across the Medway Towns.

The community fund application process is easy and decisions are made within 30 days of the application, normally much sooner.

The assessment of each application gives consideration to the following:

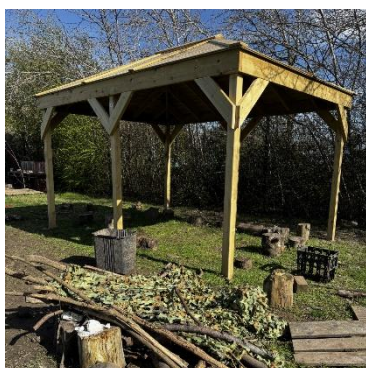
- Compliance to our Grant Policy
- Beneficiaries must be located in the Medway Towns
- Identify the need for the project
- Sustainability
- Have we supported the organisation previously
- The organisations financial status

Each application must align with our charitable objectives. A recommendation is made and the final decision is made by a small group of Directors – Charity Activities Group, currently comprises of Bob Russell (Chair), Deborah Sims, Kelly Tolhurst and Mona Koshkouei.

Here are some of the recipients who benefitted from the Trust's support.

Environmental Projects

Forest School Projects for Hempstead Infant School and St. Mary's Island School. Both projects are still evolving but the benefits of such initiatives are extensive. It fosters strong connections to nature and delivers an appreciation for the environment and conservation and an understanding of sustainability as well as delivering health benefits through outdoor learning. Trust member, Elona Walker, visited the project at St. Mary's Island School in March and was encouraged to see Year 2 children using their initiative and enthusiastic to learn about nature and the environment.



Fruit Trees for Schools Campaign. CMT funded the provision of two trees for five Medway schools:

The Rowan's AP Academy in Chatham
Leigh Academy in Rainham
Hilltop Primary in Strood
City of Rochester School | Rochester
St. Mary's Catholic School, Gillingham

The trees will provide fresh fruit and create learning opportunities as well as offsetting the carbon in the local environment.

Helping young people connect with the environment and enjoying the fruits of nature!

Young Environmentalist – Medway Sunlight Rotary Club. Support was given to Medway Sunlight Rotary Club's Young Environmentalist Competition to boost environmental awareness amongst young people. An award event was held at Brompton Westbrook Primary School at the end of February to celebrate the students' work and to award certificates and prizes.



Whales Exhibition at Rochester Cathedral. The Trust supported the Whales Exhibition at Rochester Cathedral demonstrating our commitment to culture, arts and education. The thought-provoking artwork explored the delicate relationship between humans and the natural world and attracted 29,211 visitors.



Youth Groups



1st Chatham North Rainbows, Brownies & Guides. Funding enabled attendance at the Kent International Jamboree held in August 2025. This allowed some participants to attend whose families faced financial burden. Through the various workshops participants left the festival better placed to make a positive impact in their community.

Feedback from the Team Leader “Our girls had a fantastic time immersing themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of the Jamboree. From badge swapping with international Scouts and Guides to exploring eco- friendly living and resourcefulness, the event offered countless opportunities to learn, grow, and connect.

We are especially grateful for the funding we received, which enabled several of our Guides to attend who might not otherwise have had the opportunity. This support made a real difference, opening the door to an enriching experience that will stay with them for years to come.”

1st St Mary’s Island Rainbow, Brownie & Guide Unit. Funding was provided for camping equipment for residential trips which gives participants the skills and experience that they cannot get in the usual unit meetings.

Chatham Royal Marine Cadets. A contribution was made to their funding to replace their minibus.

Medway Town Sea Cadets. Funding was given for the provision of sports equipment.

Heritage & Sport



Black Lion Swimming Club is dedicated to nurturing aspiring swimmers through the National Age Group Development Programme. This pathway is designed to support young swimmers in their quest to achieve senior international podium success. The Trust continued its support by providing the medals for their winter gala – the ‘Chatham Maritime Trust Winter Open’.

Hoo Football Club U13 & Medway United U7. New kit featuring the Trust’s logo.



Thomas Aveling Society. A contribution was made in support their heritage festival.



Health & Disability

Wetwheels South East. The Trust funded powerboating experiences from Chatham Marina, specifically designed to provide accessible water-based activities for wheelchair users and those with other disabilities.



Step & Learn. Funding supported Dynamic Movement training for a lead conductor, enhancing their ability to provide conductive education for children with physical disabilities like Cerebral Palsy and other neurological or genetic conditions.



Community & Welfare

Sunlight Development Trust. Funding was provided to replace furniture in their community café in Gillingham, which serves as a vital meeting hub for local groups.

Oasis Domestic Abuse. A grant was awarded for activities and family days out providing positive experiences for those impacted by domestic abuse.

Mess Room at Sun Pier House. A contribution was made to replace the flooring in their workshop area making it safer for those with disabilities to use the space and participate in creative activities.

Medway Hospital Charity. Funding was given to support the wellbeing of patients during their hospital stay relieving isolation and loneliness.

A total of 21 organisations/projects were supported during the year.

Charitable Delivery

Chatham Maritime Trust continues to support the provision of a Youth Leader for St. Mary's Island Youth Club and the hire of the Community Centre is provided at nil cost. It also enjoys partnership working with Think Forward mentoring students who face challenges or barriers to employment.

CHATHAM MARITIME TRUST INSIGHT DAY

15/10/2025



Thank you for your support!

Hosted at Chatham Maritime Trust

- 8 Young people from Medway.
- 4 Volunteers from Chatham Maritime Trust
- We learnt about the history of Chatham Maritime and behind the scenes of how it runs and the area
- Different career journeys of the volunteers
- Visited the Water Sports Centre
- Built a Resilience Tool Kit



Best part of the event:

- Hearing about Jess, Grant and Richard's Careers
- The tour
- Hearing about Deborah's Career
- Actually wanting to hear what we think as young people

"Practice makes perfect you don't just get what you want you have to work for it and create opportunities"

Reflection

Ideas for improvement:

- More hands on activities

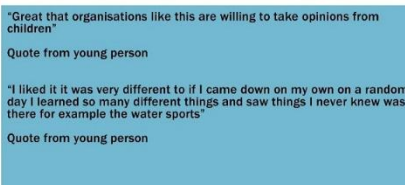
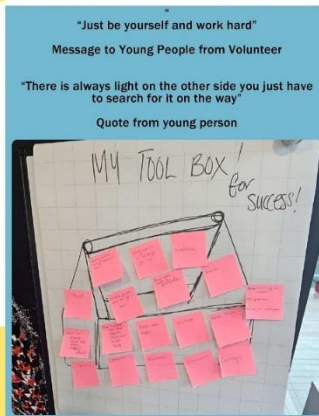


Star rating

★★★★★



CHATHAM MARITIME TRUST INSIGHT DAY 15/10/2025



We continue our ongoing relationship with Medway Education Business P'Ship for the provision of work experience placements usually accommodating two a year.

We also host a number of events enabling other charities to raise funds, i.e. Sporting Events UK, Wisdom Hospice, SMICC Xmas Fair and have an ongoing relationship with Wetwheels South East, Royal British Veterans Enterprise (formerly RBLI) and Black Lion Swimming Club.

Chatham Maritime Trust continues to promote health and wellbeing through activities at its watersports centre which provides discounted sessions to several voluntary youth groups. The centre has also provided swimming inductions at no cost to 'Team Phoenix' – a support group for ladies who have survived or who are living with cancer.



The Crew Room at the Watersports Centre has also hosted charitable groups for training – save a baby's life and CPR as well as other classes.

Charitable delivery goes beyond financial support. Staff at Chatham Maritime Trust volunteer their time and skills to assist with projects, e.g. St. Mary's Island Community Planting Day, Think Forward Student Engagement Day, Christmas Fair, mentoring Work Experience Students etc.

