



MAIN GRANTS PROGRAMME
(for applications to a maximum value of £2,500)
APPLICATION FORM

Name of organisation	Neston Singers
Official address (if applicable)	

	First contact	Second contact
Name	Margaret Harrison	Mel Pryer
Position	Chair	Treasurer
Address		
Telephone		
Email		

Does your organisation have a named bank account with a minimum of two signatories?	YES	√
	NO	

Registration status (if applicable)	
Charity Commission registration number	N/A
Companies House registration number	N/A

Your organisation	
What does your organisation do?	<p>Neston Singers is a Neston-based community choir. The choir's objective is to sing together to promote pleasure, health and musical learning in an enjoyable and supportive environment.</p> <p>We meet to rehearse every Monday evening and perform two concerts per year, one at Christmas and one in late Spring. We also hold social events for the choir.</p> <p>We also take part in community events. For example, singing at the Christmas market in Neston.</p>
How does your organisation benefit the local community? Please include a specific example.	<p>Research has shown that singing in a choir promotes our sense of happiness and both physical and mental wellbeing</p> <p>Making music exercises the brain and the body. Singing improves breathing, posture and muscle tension. Equally</p>

	<p>importantly, singing in a choir builds and strengthens social networks.</p> <p>We want to make these benefits as widely available as possible to the people of Neston.</p> <p>We are inclusive and welcoming. The choir is open to anyone who wishes to sing. There are no age limitations or audition requirement.</p>
How many people benefit directly from the work of your organisation (itemise numbers of members, volunteers and service users)?	<p>The choir currently has 24 members. Family members and friends of the choir also volunteer to support concerts.</p> <p>For the 2024 Christmas concert the choir sold 70 tickets.</p>
What activities, events or services has your organisation provided in Neston during the last 12 months?	<p>We held our usual two concerts, one in June and one in December. For these we rehearsed on Mondays from January to June and from September to December. We held two social events for the choir in July and December.</p> <p>In addition to these regular activities for choir members we took part in the Neston Library Wellbeing Week in January 2024.</p>
What activities, events or services does your organisation plan to provide in Neston for the next 12 months?	<p>We will continue to run our regular choir activities and will be open to any requests for participation in events in Neston. We have been approached to take part in the Neston Theatre Festival in June.</p> <p>We are asking for the support of Neston Town Council so that we can provide a wider range of accessible singing activities that will be open to anyone in Neston. These are outlined in our project details below.</p>

Your project	
Project title	Neston Singing in the Round
Amount requested	£654
Project start date	June 2025
Project end date	September 2025
Describe your project	<p>Our project is to run an informal song club in Neston open to all. This is based on the song club that our Musical Director already successfully runs in Wallasey Library.</p> <p>Singing in the Round in Wallasey library currently has</p>

	<p>10 participants. They meet each week on Thursday morning for an hour. The sessions provide an introduction to singing, singing in parts and understanding music. The song club also promotes social and mental wellbeing of the participants and increases their confidence.</p> <p>Participants do not need to have any previous musical experience or specialist knowledge.</p> <p>We would like to hold the Song Club in Neston Town Hall. We think this will make it more accessible. We know that holding our rehearsals in a church can put some people off even though we are not a religious choir. As the Town Hall does not have a piano we will need to buy an amp to use with a keyboard. Buying an amp will allow us to perform in more venues. At the moment we are very limited as we can only perform where there is a piano.</p> <p>Purchasing the Sibellius software will also allow our musical director to arrange music.</p>
List the main objectives of your project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Run a informal singing group for one hour per week for 6 weeks 2) Provide an introduction to singing, singing in parts and understanding music. 3) Increase participants confidence in their musical ability 4) Make the group as welcoming and accessible as possible
Explain how each main objective will be achieved.	<p>1)Our musical director will run the singing group, supported by members of the choir. We would like to hold the group in Neston Town Hall as we believe this will be more accessible than the United Reformed Church where we usually practice.</p> <p>2)Ian is experienced at working with people with no previous musical experience. He already runs a successful group in Wallasey Library.</p> <p>3)At the end of the 6 weeks the group will hold an informal performance to which they can invite friends and family. We will carry out an evaluation of the workshops with participants. We hope that some might feel confident enough to continue singing with Neston Singers</p> <p>4)We would like to hold the singing group in Neston Town Hall. We will consult on the best time of day to hold the sessions. Creating a welcoming and inclusive</p>

	environment for participants will be a priority.
Provide a timeline for implementation of your project.	June-July 2025
Detail the evidence that proves why this project is needed.	<p>Although Neston Singers has successfully grown our membership over the last 3 years we have observed that it can be intimidating for people with no previous musical experience to join the choir. We see people come to choir for a couple of weeks and leave because they find reading music and singing in parts a barrier.</p> <p>Making Music has carried out research into the barriers to joining choral societies https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/resource/choral-research</p>
Please demonstrate how the people who will benefit from your project, with lived experience of the issues tackled, have been involved in its development and how they will be involved in its delivery.	<p>The participants of the Wallasey Library singing group have given the following feedback:</p> <p>"Choir is so uplifting and fun and an absolute Godsend!" "[It has] given me camaraderie and a purpose to leave the house and meet new people." "There is a great sense of community, friendship and fun." "This gets me out and meeting people." "We all look forward to our sessions with Ian." "Certainly lifts the spirits" "It's enabled me to both meet new people and make new friends"</p> <p>We have carried out a survey via our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/nestonsingers?locale=en_GB</p> <p>51 people voted. We asked: What would prevent you joining a choir? Choirs are stuffy and boring (3 votes) Can't read music (12 votes) Too busy for a regular commitment (10 votes) The membership fee (3 votes) Worried about turning up alone without knowing anyone (5 votes) Can't sing / not a trained singer (5 votes) Embarrassed to sing in front of others (2 votes) Not knowing the music (0 no votes) Other (2 votes) Would you be interested in an informal choir that provides an introduction to singing and understanding music (9 votes)</p>
What difference will your project make to the lives of	Here is a direct quote from a participant in the Wallasey singing group:

the people who will benefit from it and how will you measure its legacy?	<p>"I want to outline the benefits that abound in being part of a singing group. Singing uses many different parts of the brain therefore supporting and strengthening all three pillars of health, physical mental and social. It instantly improves the spirit too.</p> <p>The group set up by Ian has proved very popular and I have been part of it from the first session. We learn two or three songs each week and have built up a good repertoire. The sessions help improve memory, promote well being and introduce you to new friends, all so important at any age but crucial to anyone with health issues or feeling isolated. Ian has a wonderful personality and makes every week such fun so learning is always a pleasure. "</p> <p>We will carry out an evaluation of the workshops with participants. We hope that some might feel confident enough to continue singing with Neston Singers</p>	
How many people do you estimate will benefit from your project?	Direct beneficiaries	10
	Volunteers	5
If you aim for your project to carry on in the future, how will you ensure it continues after the funding from this application has been used?	If this application is successful we see these initial sessions as a trial. If the project works well we will consider whether to continue.	

Breakdown of project costs	
Description of expenditure	Amount £
Room hire (assume Neston Town Hall @ £19 per session)	114
Musical director (£60 per workshop including prep time x 6)	360
Amp https://www.gear4music.com/PA-DJ-and-Lighting/Behringer-MPA40BT-Pro-Portable-PA-System/PP9?origin=product-ads&qad_source=1&qclid=Cj0KCQjw4v6-BhDuARIsALprm30UKs45irc-JRj147I1IHaoPU4aR7lh37dEvLIiyh6yIjZUoHu5QkAaApoZEALw_wcB	180
Purchase of Sibellius music software https://www.avid.com/sibelius	170
TOTAL PROJECT COST (do not include in-kind costs)	824

Sources of project funding and in-kind support

Have you secured any other funding for your project? If so, where from?	Amount
Neston Singers reserves	£170
Description of in-kind assistance secured (eg volunteer hours or donated equipment)	Amount (what is the financial conversion for this in-kind help?)
Choir volunteer hours (£20 per hour based on NLHF standard hourly rate. We are assuming that a minimum of two volunteers from the choir will attend each session)	£240

Financial information about your organisation (last financial year)	
What was the date of your last financial year end?	01/09/2023-01/09/2024
What was your organisation's income in the last financial year?	£4832
Did your organisation have a surplus or deficit for the last financial year?	Surplus £42
	Deficit £
What were your organisation's unrestricted reserves at the end of the last financial year?	£1676

Financial information about your organisation (current financial year)	
Are you projecting a surplus or deficit for the current financial year?	Projected surplus £0
	Projected deficit £0
What are your organisation's projected unrestricted reserves for the end of the current financial year?	£1676

Previous grant support from Neston Town Council		
Please detail below previous grant support that your organisation has received from Neston Town Council during the past five years		
Date of grant award	Purpose of grant award	Amount
March 2023	Purchase of music	£433

The Town Council's funding priorities	
We look for projects that support the funding priorities detailed in the Town Council's Grants Policy. Which of these priorities does your project support?	
To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities.	✓
To help the Neston area's voluntary and community groups to improve the impact on the community.	✓
To ensure the provision of services, needed by the residents of the Neston area, via the voluntary sector.	
To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.	

To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Neston area residents to the services it provides and funds.	√
To improve or enhance the local environment.	

Checklist	
Latest annual accounts	√
Copies of written estimates or catalogue pages (if applicable)	
Policies for the protection of children and/or vulnerable adults (if applicable)	

Declaration	
1. I am authorised to make the application on behalf of the above organisation. 2. I have read Neston Town Council's Grants Policy and Funding Agreement. 3. I certify that the information in this application is correct. 4. If the information in the application changes in any way I will inform Neston Town Council. 5. I confirm that our organisation has the necessary governance in place to ensure accountability for the spending of any grant money allocated by Neston Town Council. 6. I understand that information provided in this application (with the exception of contact details and signatures) will be in the public domain and will be uploaded to the Town Council's website. 7. I agree to participate in monitoring, auditing and reporting feedback related to Neston Town Council grant funding.	
Name	Margaret Harrison
Signature	
Date	23/03/2025

Applications to the main grants programme are considered twice a year and the deadlines for submission of applications are **31 March** and **30 September**.

You can submit your application electronically to council@nestontowncouncil.org.uk or by post to Neston Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Neston CH64 9TR.

NESTON TOWN COUNCIL PRIVACY NOTICE FOR APPLICANTS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Data Protection Act 2018 governs how we handle personal data.

Why are we collecting your information?

On our grant application forms most of the information we need relates to your organisation. However, we are often provided with names, email addresses, contact telephone numbers and addresses relating to named individuals who are submitting the form on behalf of the group. We are processing the data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We will only use the personal data supplied for the means of administering the grants programme.

How will we use your information?

The information you provide to us in connection with your grant application (including personal contact details) will be held securely as hard copy originals and as electronic data on Neston Town Council's shared drive. We will only use this information to assess, process and award community grants. For those successful in obtaining a grant award, we will use information about the project in publicity to promote the grants programme but will not share any personal data. If we want to use any photographs showing people at your events we will ensure we gain consent from them at the time in order to use images of them.

Who will we share your information with?

The information may be shared with other Council Officers and Town Councillors as part of our grant assessment and monitoring process. A redacted version of your grant application (removing private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures) will be considered at a grants meeting and, as such, will be uploaded to the Town Council website alongside other papers detailed on the agenda. Your contact details will not be passed on to third parties. Please note that Neston Town Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and other legislation.

How long will we keep your information?

Information from successful applicants will be retained for the current financial year plus six years. A redacted version of the grant application uploaded to the website as a meeting paper will be available to view for an indefinite period (private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures are redacted).

Information from unsuccessful grant applicants will be kept for 12 months from the point of application. A redacted version of the grant application uploaded to the website as a meeting paper will be available to view for an indefinite period (private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures are redacted).

Behringer MPA40BT Pro Portable PA System

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- 40W power output suitable for audiences up to 250 people
- Full Bluetooth connectivity for wireless audio streaming
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- Includes dynamic microphone and 2-band EQ mixer
- Lightweight design with integrated stand mounting

🗨 Do you have any questions? [Get in touch](#)

📄 Behringer MPA40BT Pro Portable PA System Overview

behringer

The Behringer MPA40BT Pro Portable PA System is an excellent choice for a wide range of public address needs including educational presentations, corporate events, and outdoor parties. This system features 40 watts of power and a high-quality sound projection for audiences of up to 250 people. With comprehensive Bluetooth connectivity, you can effortlessly stream audio from any Bluetooth-enabled device, making it easier to manage your playlist without cumbersome wires.

The unit is incredibly user-friendly, requiring no technical background to operate, and offers up to 12 hours of performance on a single battery charge. Its compact design includes a carry handle and a pole socket for easy setup and mobility.

Product Ref: 33309

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