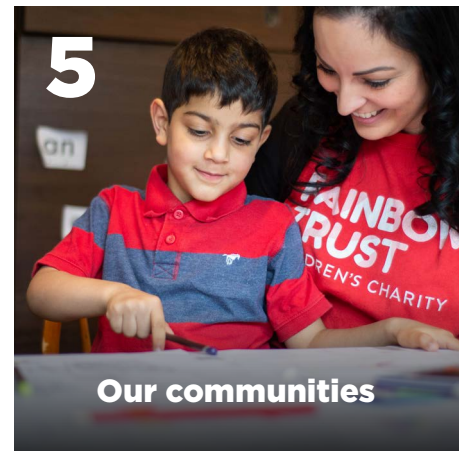


Supporting our Local Communities

THE 2024 YEARBOOK

Contents



Welcome to the 2024 Yearbook



At British Gypsum, we're dedicated to improving lives and protecting the environment through our Building Better Communities programme. Since launching in 2020, our goal has been to make a positive impact on the communities around our sites.

In 2024, we supported a range of organisations and initiatives by providing materials, time and funding. Our efforts have helped improve the wellbeing of local people, tackling issues like poverty, inclusion, and diversity.

Beyond our local work, we're also proud to be a founding patron of CRASH, the national construction charity that supports vital building projects for hospices and homelessness charities.

We invite you to explore the causes we supported in 2024 in this yearbook. As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue working with organisations that help strengthen our communities.

Dean O'Sullivan
Managing Director





Supporting CRASH

Building a better future together

At British Gypsum, we are committed to supporting the communities where we live and work. As a founding patron of CRASH, the construction industry's charity for homelessness and hospice projects, we are proud to contribute to the creation of safe, dignified spaces for people in need.

In 2024, we continued our support with over £10,000 raised for CRASH, including our annual patronage fee and donations from our Christmas Appeal. Our partnership with CRASH ensures that vital building materials, professional expertise and funding reach charities supporting some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Beyond our work with CRASH, British Gypsum has also donated over £100,000 to charities and local community initiatives this year, alongside free-of-charge materials that have helped transform spaces and improve lives.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to supporting CRASH and the incredible work they do, helping to improve lives through construction and community support.



"CRASH plays a vital role in helping homelessness and hospice charities create safe, welcoming spaces. We are proud to continue our long-standing partnership, ensuring that the construction industry can make a real difference in people's lives."

Rachel Kelly

Head of Brand for Saint-Gobain Interior Solutions

Supporting our communities in 2024

At British Gypsum, we believe in making a meaningful impact in the communities where we work. Through our Building Better Communities programme, we provide materials, funding, and volunteer time to support local initiatives that improve people’s lives.

This year, we focused on four key areas: tackling poverty, helping young people flourish, boosting social inclusion, and building happy and healthy communities.

The communities that we support are located in and around our sites, which are:

- 1 Barrow Upon Soar
- 2 Kirkby Thore
- 3 East Leake
- 4 Sherburn
- 5 Fauld
- 6 Robertsbridge



Tackling poverty



Supporting organisations that provide essential aid and resources to those facing financial hardship is a key part of our commitment. In 2024, we contributed to projects that help people access essential services, protect historical spaces, and provide aid where it matters most.

CBB Warm Hub

Transforming lives through community support

The CBB Warm Hub, a vital community initiative based in Clifton, Nottingham, has become a lifeline for local families and individuals in need. With the support of the Clifton Community Bidding Page (CBB), the Hub raises funds through auctions of donated pre-loved items, which support local groups, vulnerable families, and community projects.

In response to the shortage of warm public spaces and the closure of local community centres, the CBB Warm Hub has transformed an old storage area into a warm, welcoming environment for both community support efforts and essential storage needs. Our donation of materials was instrumental in creating this new space, which is crucial for the Hub's ability to respond to emergencies, such as house fires or domestic violence situations.

The Hub's impact is especially significant during the winter and holiday season, when it runs initiatives like Christmas Day food hampers, a toy drive, and Santa's Magical Trail, which spreads festive cheer to local families. With plans to expand further and continue offering support groups and community connections, the CBB Warm Hub remains an essential resource for Clifton, and its work is a testament to the power of community and support.

"It's wonderful to see local companies helping small groups like ours invest in our community and grow. British Gypsum's contribution has made a real difference, not just to the Hub but to the families and individuals we support."

Charlotte Batterham
Organiser of the CBB Warm Hub



St. Andrew's Church Flower Festival

Raising funds to preserve a historic church

We were delighted to support St. Andrew's Church in Kegworth through a monetary donation, ensuring the success of its cherished biennial flower festival. This vibrant event, showcasing stunning floral arrangements by local florists, brings the community together while raising essential funds to preserve the historic church and enhance its facilities.

As a central hub for weddings, baptisms, funerals, and community events, St. Andrew's plays a vital role in Kegworth. However, maintaining the church is costly, and the flower festival is crucial for fundraising. Our support helped offset event expenses, allowing proceeds from collections, prize draws, and refreshments to go directly towards sustaining the church.

St. Andrew's sought British Gypsum's support due to the company's history of backing local initiatives. Julie Cooke, who applied for the donation, said, "We're thrilled to receive this generous support for our flower festival."



"Supporting St. Andrew's Church and their flower festival reflects our commitment to the communities where we work. This vibrant tradition unites people and highlights the church's role as a key gathering place for life's moments and community activities."

Keith Givens

Plant Manager at British Gypsum's East Leake location

Mountfield Village Hall

Sustaining a community hub with smart energy solutions

Mountfield Village Hall, a key social hub in a rural community, has recently received a donation for improving its energy efficiency. Established in 1928, the hall serves various local clubs and societies, including a Men's Club focussed on improving the lives of working men. As a vital venue in an area with few amenities, its preservation is essential to the community.

In response to rising electricity costs, the trustees sought ways to reduce operating expenses. Mountfield Village Hall relies entirely on electricity for heating and lighting, and with electricity bills nearing £7,000 annually, this became a pressing issue. Our contribution provided insulation materials that have helped reduce heating costs, creating a more energy-efficient environment and ensuring the hall remains a comfortable space for the community.

The improvements not only lowered energy consumption but also ensured that the hall can continue to serve as a refuge in emergencies, especially during colder months. The hall's trustees are now planning to install a more efficient heating system to further reduce costs. Ongoing community events, such as coffee mornings and a new mothers and toddlers group, will continue to make Mountfield Village Hall a valuable resource for years to come.

"We believe in supporting our local communities and ensuring that facilities like Mountfield Village Hall can continue to thrive. Our contribution is not just about providing financial assistance; it's about making connections and helping create a sustainable future for the community."

Tanya Young

Plant Manager at British Gypsum's Robertsbridge site



Helping young people flourish



Investing in the next generation ensures children and young people have the best chance to succeed. From funding technology in classrooms to helping young people access new experiences, British Gypsum is supporting initiatives that help young people develop skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

Burton-on-the-Wolds Primary School

Improving learning with digital tools

Burton-on-the-Wolds Primary School, a small school in the rural village of Burton-on-the-Wolds, recently received a donation from British Gypsum to support their local community. The funding has been used to purchase a set of iPads, which are now central to the school's lessons. These devices are helping students improve their literacy and numeracy skills through apps like Nessy (for dyslexia), Times Tables Rockstars, and Spelling Shed.

The iPads not only improve student engagement but also offer time-saving benefits for teachers. By allowing students to access materials and submit work digitally, the need for printed resources and photocopying has been greatly reduced, helping to lower costs and streamline teaching.

This initiative is part of the school's broader goal to modernise learning, which will also support their aim to become an Eco-School by reducing paper waste. Future plans include using virtual reality for subjects like geography, space, and history, as well as implementing apps like Seesaw to enable teachers to give audio feedback, helping students respond more effectively in future lessons.

"We understand the importance of education to change lives and are pleased to contribute to an innovative project that improves both the learning experience and the school's sustainability goals."

Keith Givens

Plant Manager at British Gypsum's East Leake location.





East Leake Year 6 Prom

A special celebration for local children

The transition from primary to secondary school is a major milestone, and the East Leake Year 6 Prom provided a memorable way for over 100 students to celebrate this achievement. Organised in collaboration with local schools, including Lantern Lane, Brookside, Millside, Costock, and Sutton Bonington Primaries, the event also allowed students to meet fellow classmates who will join them at East Leake Academy, their local secondary school.

We proudly supported the 2024 prom with a monetary donation, helping to cover essential costs and ensure a joyous celebration. The prom, funded entirely by donations and ticket sales, benefitted from our support, which contributed to decorations, refreshments, and creating an engaging atmosphere. With plans already underway for the July 2025 prom, the East Leake Schools Prom Committee hopes for continued support from businesses like British Gypsum to make next year's event another success.

"We are delighted to support the Year 6 Prom, an important event for local children as they celebrate their achievements and look ahead to new opportunities. Many of their parents work with us, so this is our way of giving back to a community we value deeply."

Keith Givens

Plant Manager at British Gypsum's
East Leake location



1st Robertsbridge Scouts

A life-changing overseas conservation adventure

We proudly supported the 1st Robertsbridge Scout Group, contributing to the Asgard Explorer Scout Unit's recent overseas trip to Gibraltar. This donation enabled the Scouts to participate in a marine conservation project with The Nautilus Project, improving their environmental knowledge and providing unforgettable life experiences.

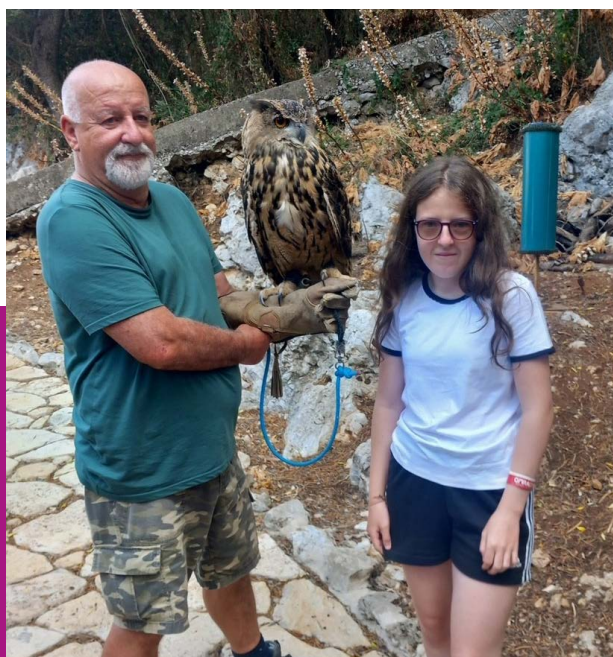
Founded over 110 years ago, the 1st Robertsbridge Scout Group teaches young people essential skills, ranging from outdoor adventures to leadership. The Asgard Explorer Scouts, aged 14-18, gained invaluable experiences, including kayaking, snorkelling, beach cleaning, and learning about marine conservation efforts. A variety of hands-on experiences and classroom learning taught the Scouts about the effects of pollution, the importance of protecting marine biodiversity, and ways they can contribute to conservation efforts both locally and globally.

Our contribution supported the Explorers' fundraising efforts, ensuring the trip was accessible to all. This donation allowed the Scouts to focus on their mission, offering them a rare chance to contribute to global conservation efforts while exploring Gibraltar's unique environment.



The experience deepened their commitment to protecting the planet, creating new perspectives on environmental challenges. With hopes of further adventures, the Scouts are now motivated to pursue the 'Explorer Belt' expedition, continuing their journey of learning, teamwork, and community impact!

"Foreign trips are not cheap, and without the support of organisations like British Gypsum, we wouldn't be able to travel like this and give our young people these experiences" commented the Assistant Scout Leader at the Robertsbridge Scout Group. "We would like to say a big thank you to British Gypsum for their support."



"One of my favourite experiences was snorkelling because we got to see so much marine life and how much variety there was! I also really enjoyed learning about all the different sea creatures that surround the coastline of Gibraltar."

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FLOURISH
KEYWORTH, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



“We’re delighted to have played a part in this project and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on the school and the local area.”

Keith Givens

Plant Manager at British Gypsum’s East Leake location

Willow Brook Primary School

Supporting local schools growth with new extension

We are pleased to have contributed to the expansion of Willow Brook Primary School in Keyworth, providing essential building materials for the school’s new extension. This donation played a crucial role in enhancing the learning environment for both staff and pupils.

Looking for ways to reduce costs, the school saw an opportunity to improve its expansion plans with British Gypsum’s donation of various required materials. The new extension addresses the growing demand for space, providing dedicated areas for music, drama, and extracurricular activities. Additionally, it improves facilities for tutoring, staff training, and meetings, addressing previous limitations.

Established in 1969, Willow Brook Primary School has long been a vital educational institution for the local community, serving a capacity of 210 pupils across ages 4 - 11. As the school continued to grow, it became evident that more space was needed to improve its facilities and better support the students. The extension will not only enhance the school’s resources but also offer flexibility for after-school and holiday clubs, benefitting the wider community. With this new space, Willow Brook is better equipped to meet the needs of both students and staff, ensuring a positive impact for years to come.

Willoughby Primary School

Turning the page on library challenges

We were delighted to make a material donation to Willoughby Primary School, one of the smallest schools in the country, to improve its reading and library area. The funding has helped improve the learning environment for the school's 44 pupils by updating resources and promoting a love of reading.

Established in 1863, Willoughby Primary has just two classes and previously struggled with outdated books, some of which had been damaged due to damp conditions. With our support, the school has upcycled shelving and purchased 50 recommended reads for Years 3 to 6, creating a refreshed and inspiring space for students.

Keith Givens, Plant Manager at British Gypsum's East Leake site, shared "We are committed to helping our local communities, and it's rewarding to see our contribution make a meaningful impact." The new reading area has received positive feedback from students and staff, who are grateful for the donation.

"Thank you so much for the generous donations to our school reading area and new books. The donation completely transformed a once boring old corridor into a beautiful reading space. As soon as the new books were placed on the shelves, at least half of them had already found themselves in people's bags by the end of the day!"

Mabel
Student



Boosting social inclusion



Creating spaces where everyone feels welcome and connected is vital for strong communities. Community halls, sports arenas, and village spaces provide essential places for people to come together. By funding improvements to these venues, we ensure they remain accessible and welcoming for years to come.

Willoughby Village Hall

A small change with a big impact

We are delighted to have supported Willoughby Village Hall with a £1,000 donation, enabling the installation of a new all-weather canopy. This addition is a valuable asset to the small but thriving community of Willoughby on the Wolds, enhancing the village hall's role as a hub for local activities and providing greater usability for its many visitors.

Willoughby Village Hall has been at the heart of village life since the 1920s. It was extended and refurbished in the 1980s and has since served as a vital venue for events and activities that cater to residents of all ages. From playgroups and school sports to fitness classes, yoga, community breakfasts, private parties, and more, the hall is a bustling centre for the community. The new canopy, funded by support like British Gypsum's, ensures the space is more versatile, allowing outdoor areas to be used in wet weather while also providing shelter for caterers and equipment during larger events.

"We knew this would be a small project with a big impact, and British Gypsum's support has made it possible" said the Village Hall committee. "The enclosed all-weather canopy is incredibly useful, especially for the children during rainy days, and it has enhanced the hall's appeal for a range of users."



"We're thrilled to support Willoughby Village Hall, a key community hub. The positive impact on local residents is immense, and we are proud to contribute to making the hall more user-friendly and cost-effective for years to come."

Keith Givens

Plant Manager at British Gypsum's East Leake location



Gotham Sports Arena

Upgrading facilities for a safer, more inclusive space

We are proud to have contributed to the Gotham Sports Arena's recent upgrades, improving the safety and functionality of this vital community hub. Our monetary donation funded the replacement of the arena's 25-year-old artificial turf and improved the floodlit lighting, ensuring a better experience for local sports enthusiasts.

The Gotham Sports Arena, part of the Gotham Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust, serves as a key facility for local football, tennis clubs, and casual users. The arena's upgrades were part of a larger fundraising effort that included crowd funding and grants. British Gypsum, with its strong ties to the community, was a natural partner in supporting these improvements.

Keith Givens, Plant Manager at British Gypsum's East Leake site, expressed pride in the donation's impact, highlighting the arena's role in promoting physical and mental well-being. The upgrades have already resulted in increased usage, benefitting both sports clubs and casual visitors. Looking ahead, the arena plans to modernise its operations, including the introduction of online booking systems, to better serve the community.

"We're incredibly grateful for British Gypsum's support. Their donation has made a huge difference, and the upgrades have been welcomed by everyone who uses the arena."

John Anderson
Secretary and Treasurer of Gotham Sports Arena





“It’s been rewarding to see how our contribution has revitalised the Scout Hall, creating a safer and more welcoming space for local groups and families. We’re proud to support an initiative that develops community growth and engagement.”

Greg Bere

Plant Manager
at British Gypsum’s
Barrow upon Soar location

Barrow Scout Group

Restoring a community hub for local groups

The Barrow Scout Group, one of the largest in the Charnwood area, received a £1,000 donation to restore the main hall floor, breathing new life into a community hub that’s been serving locals since 1956. The hall is home to numerous activities, including children’s dance classes, Pilates sessions, and charity events, and plays a key role in the development of young members aged 4 to 14.

With a team of retired volunteers, the group-initiated repairs on the hall’s aging wooden floor, significantly cutting down costs before a professional resurfacing. Our donation helped cover the cost of sanding and finishing the floor, improving the hall’s appeal and usability for the 200+ weekly visitors. Positive feedback has already poured in, with groups like the Story Sense Baby Group increasing their weekly bookings.

The Scout Group, founded 90 years ago, has plans to further improve its facilities, including insulation, carbon footprint reduction, and even a future hall replacement. Our support helped the group continue its mission of providing adventure and personal growth for local youth while keeping the space accessible for the wider community.

Building happy and healthy communities



Strengthening local facilities for sport, culture, and wellbeing helps people live happier, healthier lives. Local sports clubs, schools, and community centres play a huge role in bringing people together. In 2024, we supported projects that enhanced these spaces by funding improvements, expanding facilities, and ensuring they remain at the heart of their communities.



East Leake Bantams and Robins Football Club

Supporting community growth through sport

We are proud to support East Leake Bantams and Robins Football Club through a monetary donation. This funding has been essential in covering operational costs and supporting the establishment of the club's new reserves team, providing a well-equipped environment for players of all ages and abilities.

Founded in 1975, East Leake Bantams is one of the county's largest youth football programmes, offering a safe, inclusive space for children to develop their skills. In 2016, the East Leake Robins men's team merged with Bantams to create a unified club. This merger has not only streamlined the transition from youth to adult football but has also introduced girls-only teams and a ladies' first team, making the club more inclusive than ever.

The donation, requested by the Assistant Manager of the club, has helped ease the financial burden on the club's volunteers and self-funded players. This season, the funds supported the new reserves team, including new kits, training equipment, and covering weekly operational costs.

The club's Assistant Manager expressed deep gratitude for our support, highlighting how it has allowed the club to expand and continue providing football opportunities for all local players. Looking ahead, the club plans to grow further, with ambitions to establish a third team and progress to the Premier Division of the Nottinghamshire Senior League.

"The support from British Gypsum has been a game-changer for us. Without their donation, we wouldn't have been able to keep up with the costs of expanding the club. Their contribution ensures that we can continue to provide a space for local players to enjoy football, no matter their age or skill level"

Dan Wilmott, East Leake Bantams and Robins Football Club's Assistant Manager.

Rainbow Trust

Helping families facing life-threatening illnesses

Learning that your child has a life-threatening illness is devastating, and Rainbow Trust Children's Charity provides essential practical and emotional support to families in these challenging times. Their Family Support Workers assist families at home, in hospitals, and in the community for as long as needed.

We are proud to have supported this vital cause, donating funds to Rainbow Trust's London and South East Care team. This contribution has provided around 60 hours of critical community-based support for families facing unimaginable challenges.

Thanks to our donation, families in the Robertsbridge area have benefitted directly, enabling Rainbow Trust to continue its mission of offering compassionate, tailored support to parents, carers, siblings, and grandparents during their time of need.

"We're committed to supporting families in need and are proud to help the Rainbow Trust deliver practical and emotional care that makes a real difference."

Tanya Young,
Plant Manager at British Gypsum's
Robertsbridge site





“This project has breathed new life into our village hall. The space is now much warmer, smarter, and more welcoming, offering improved facilities for the whole community. It’s the only asset we have as a village, and now it’s something we can all be proud of.”

Mike Grayson
Village Hall Management Team

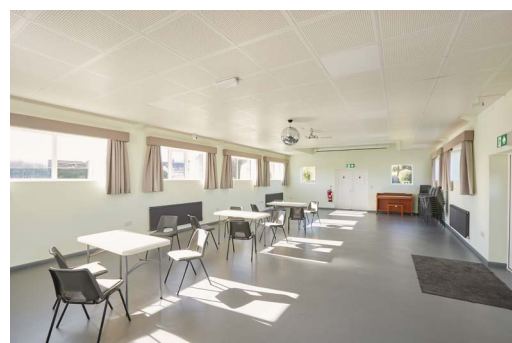
Stutton Village Hall

A fresh start for stutton village hall

Stutton Village Hall, a key community space for the residents of Stutton Cum Hazlewood, has undergone a major transformation, making it warmer, more accessible, and better equipped for future generations. Thanks to the support of British Gypsum, the hall has been fully insulated and replastered, ensuring a welcoming and comfortable space for local events and activities.

The refurbishment included a new roof, ceiling, floor, and walls, as well as a modern serving area and updated toilet facilities, including an accessible toilet with baby-changing amenities. British Gypsum’s donation of materials enabled the team to insulate the roof and walls, replaster the entire hall, and install acoustic ceiling tiles to improve sound quality.

With these improvements, the hall is now registered as a warm space venue, providing a place for residents to meet, socialise, and stay connected. The village hall committee is also planning to expand its use for community activities, such as cinema nights, family barbecues, and seasonal celebrations, ensuring it remains a vital hub for all.





**Find out more about our
Building Better Communities
programme and apply for
support [here](#)**

SAINT-GOBAIN

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