

# Arts groups win share of £17k cultural fund jackpot

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**Festivals were the big winners as a total of £17,000 was this week shared out among cultural projects across Harrogate district.**

A total of ten projects are awarded cash by Harrogate council's Arts and Heritage grants scheme.

Knarborough's Release the Hounds and Ripon International Festivals joined Harrogate's Friends of the Valley Gardens in each receiving £3,000.

And Nidderdale Visual Arts were awarded nearly £1,000 for an art recycling project.

Green Hammerton Recreational Charity was awarded £1,000 towards theatre and craft workshops celebrating the Tour de France.

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Cultural Services, said: "We look at projects that aim to widen audiences, to address barriers to participation, to build skills and to boost the local economy through cultural activities.

"The Harrogate district has a rich cultural life and the council is committed to

supporting the people and organisations that make this possible.

"We are especially pleased to be able to make awards to groups that are doing new work with our young people."

Each year, Harrogate council invites voluntary organisations, charities and community groups working to develop projects in culture, arts and heritage to apply for a share of the fund.

It is administered by the council's Culture, Tourism and Sports service.

Applications were assessed by Councillors Caroline Bayliss and Pat Marsh, with Museums and Heritage Consultant Sara Muir.