

Job description: Part-Time Volunteer Fundraisers



Job Title: Volunteer Part-Time Fundraisers (with possibility of remuneration subject to funding)

Organisation: Love Our Ouse (Community Interest Company)

Location: Hybrid / Remote with occasional in-person meetings in the River Ouse valley

Hours: Part-time (hours to be agreed in consultation with the Board)

Contract: project and institutional core funding

Reporting to: Board of Love Our Ouse

About Love Our Ouse

Love Our Ouse (LOO) is a community-led organisation dedicated to strengthening people's connection with the River Ouse and supporting the practical implementation of the River Ouse Charter of Rights. Through celebration, learning and action, we enable communities and stakeholders to care for and regenerate the river from source to sea.

In the three short years of its existence, **Love Our Ouse (LOO) has made an impact far beyond its size:** it has conducted numerous activities to inspire communities to learn, care and act for their river and led them in the **first successful campaign to see a river in the UK have its rights recognised by a council.** This ground breaking achievement has since inspired a national movement for river rights that puts the needs of rivers and communities at the heart of their governance.

It has done all this despite being run, largely by volunteers and with extremely limited resources. Its recent **nomination for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service** reflects these accomplishments.

However, **these successes have presented new challenges which we will need to rise to.** They have led to increased demand, both locally and nationally, on how communities can be deeply engaged in the regeneration of rivers and how a river's rights can in practice be upheld. This demand is not matched by our current capacity.

We now seek to consolidate and build upon our successes by **strengthening our institutional capacity, build partnerships and scale-up our activities** to support communities to celebrate, learn and act to uphold the rights of the local river they love: the Ouse.

Background

LOO has recently completed the development of a new five-year strategy for 2026-2030. One of the objectives of this strategy is **'By 2030, strengthen the institutional capacity of Love Our Ouse to regenerate the river Ouse'**. In order to help achieve this we aim to secure the following outcome:

3.3 Outcome: *LOO has secured sufficient core and project funding and resources to implement our strategy and annual plans*

Activities: Development and implementation of a resource mobilisation strategy to meet all of LOO's core and operational needs including the recruitment and retention of at least one full-time executive director for LOO. The recruitment of a fundraiser is seen a vital input in order to secure this outcome and included in our 2026 annual plan.

Role Purpose

The Part-Time Fundraisers will work with the board to develop and implement a practical, proportionate fundraising strategy to secure core and project funding for Love Our Ouse. The role focuses on grants, trusts and foundations, partnerships and individual giving, helping to build long-term financial sustainability while remaining aligned with the organisation's community-centred values.

Key Responsibilities

Strategy & Planning

- Help develop and maintain a realistic fundraising strategy and pipeline.
- Identify priority income streams (trusts, foundations, statutory grants, corporate partnerships, individual donors).
- Help set achievable income targets in collaboration with Directors.

Grant & Trust Fundraising

- Assist researching and identifying suitable funding opportunities.
- Help prepare high-quality successful funding applications, proposals and budgets.
- Maintain a grants calendar and submission schedule.
- Help draft monitoring and evaluation reports for funders.

Partnerships & Donor Development

- Explore ethical corporate and institutional partnerships aligned with LOO's values.
- Support the development of individual donor and membership schemes where appropriate.
- Nurture relationships with existing and prospective supporters.

Systems & Compliance

- Establish and maintain a simple CRM or donor tracking system.
- Ensure compliance with fundraising regulations and data protection requirements.
- Contribute to impact reporting and evidence gathering for funding bids.

Collaboration & Communications

- Work closely with Directors and volunteers to gather project information, budgets and impact data.

- Opportunity to contribute to fundraising messaging for newsletters, website and social media.
 - Attend occasional stakeholder or networking events.
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Person Specification

Essential

- Demonstrable experience in grant or trust fundraising.
- Strong written communication and proposal-writing skills.
- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively and meet deadlines
- Understanding of small charity / CIC financial realities.
- Knowledge of UK charitable trusts and public funding streams.
- Experience fundraising for environmental, community or social impact organisations.
- Alignment with LOO's environmental and community-led values.
- Budget awareness and financial literacy

Desirable

- Familiarity with CRM or donor management systems.
- Experience working with volunteer-led organisations.
- You love our Ouse

Values & Approach

The successful candidate will be collaborative, pragmatic and values-driven, comfortable working with a small team, and motivated by creating tangible environmental and community benefit. This role suits someone who enjoys building something meaningful from the ground up rather than operating within a large institutional structure.

What we are hoping you will achieve

- Number and quality of funding applications submitted
 - Funds secured against agreed targets e.g. funds for core operational costs and projects
 - Development of a sustainable funding pipeline
 - Strengthened donor and partner relationships
 - Clear, compliant fundraising systems in place
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Potential Benefits to Applicants

1. Tangible Environmental Impact

- Direct contribution to the regeneration of a real river and catchment.
- Opportunity to support one of the UK's leading Rights of Rivers initiatives.
- Ability to see clear, place-based outcomes rather than abstract impact.

2. Skills Development

- Hands-on experience in grant writing, donor engagement and fundraising strategy.
- Experience building fundraising systems from the ground up.
- Exposure to governance, monitoring and evaluation, and impact reporting.
- Portfolio-worthy outputs (successful bids, toolkits, campaigns).

3. Career Advancement & Credibility

- Strengthens CV for roles in the environmental, NGO, sustainability or policy sectors.
- Opportunity to gain board-level experience.
- Demonstrable leadership in a growing national movement (Rights of Nature / River Rights).
- Potential references from directors and partner organisations.

4. Professional Network Expansion

- Connections with councils, environmental NGOs, regulators, academics and funders.
- Access to national networks such as river rights and catchment partnerships.
- Opportunities to attend events, conferences and stakeholder meetings.

5. Visibility & Recognition

- Acknowledgement in funding bids, reports and public communications.
- Opportunity to co-author or be credited in publications or toolkits.
- Association with award-nominated and media-recognised initiatives.

6. Personal Fulfilment

- Contributing to meaningful change rather than purely commercial goals.
- Alignment with personal environmental or community values.
- Seeing immediate relevance of work within local communities.

7. Flexibility & Autonomy

- Flexible hours and remote-friendly working.
- Scope to shape strategy and try new approaches.
- Independence to build something that reflects your ideas.

8. Learning & Mentoring

- Exposure to participatory governance, environmental law, community engagement and social innovation.
- Potential mentoring from experienced practitioners within the network.
- Opportunity to mentor others in turn.

9. Pathway Opportunities

- Potential transition into paid roles if funding grows.
 - Eligibility to join steering groups, advisory boards or trustee roles.
 - Opportunities to collaborate on future funded projects.
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Application

To apply for this position, **please provide your CV and a short covering letter explaining how you meet the person specification and key skills.** For an informal chat about the role, please email info@loveourouse.org

Please email your application to info@loveourouse.org

Closing date for applications: 23.59hrs 6th May 2026.