

## **MARTIAL ARTS**

**COMMUNITY GRANT FUND** 

Working in Partnership with your Local Authority





LegacyLeisure.org.uk



Legacy Leisure and Cotswolds Sports Centre have teamed up to support Calcot and Tilehurst Kickboxing (now CT-Martial Arts).

The club was formed in 2017 as a way to promote the sport of Kickboxing to the local community. The club has since gone from strength to strength, expanding to other local communities around Calcot and Tilehurst in order to make its training more accessible.

Martial Arts, or more to the point, Kickboxing is not the nation's most well known or attended sport. However there is no doubt that it has its place due to 800,000 people participating in combat sports in England in 2019. The local community in Reading have certainly contributed to that number now as sport rebuilds from the pandemic.

The funding from Legacy Leisure has a meaningful impact on the community in Reading. Although some of the money will go towards equipment, the main use of it will be to extend venue hire and advertise to make more classes available for vulnerable people.

Kickboxing is a self defence sport, it is there primarily as a sport to compete in however can be a life skill in a difficult situation. The classes aim to take as many children off the street and channel their energy into a tool that is trained to be used only when needed.

The impact of CT-Martial Arts could see crime reduced amongst young people in Reading once the classes expand. Classes are free to attend, with the hope of getting as much engagement as possible in the interim before seeing the longer term benefits in the community.