

We could not have done it alone...

...and we are very grateful to the following organisations who responded swiftly once we were in a position to distribute funds:

- Age UK Somerset
- Burnham & Highbridge Stroke Club
- Citizens Advice Bureau Taunton
- Citizens Advice Bureau Mendip
- Heather Club
- Mendip Care and Repair
- Mendip Community Credit Union
- PALS
- Rotary Club Frome
- Somerset West Care and Repair
- Taunton Deane Association for Neighbourhood Care
- Wincanton Live at Home

We have also helped 15 other Community Foundations launch and run their own appeals this winter raising over £200,000 across the country.

Looking forward

This year's appeal was very much a pilot to see if we could raise enough money to make a difference and distribute it effectively. With your help we succeeded beyond our expectations, but we know there is much more we could achieve.

We will be working through the summer with a wider variety of local organisations, preparing them for next year's programme. We are also holding a reserve grant fund over so that we can be ready in the event of another very cold spell in early part of the winter before new donations come in.

I hope you will feel able to support us again next year and if you can help us promote the appeal more widely please let me know.

About Somerset Community Foundation

Somerset Community Foundation supports local giving, making it simpler and easier for donors to make a difference in their community. Since 2002 we have distributed almost £3m in grants to a wide range of local charities and community groups, and created a £2m long-term endowment fund for the county. Over 30 funds donated by local families, companies and trusts are administered through the Foundation.

If you would like to find out more about the wider work of the Foundation, please visit our website www.somersetcf.org.uk, or visit us at our offices at the Bath and West Showground, near Shepton Mallet.

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Registered Charity No 1094446



Surviving Winter Appeal Report



2010/11

Why I am writing to you

Now we have reached the end of the winter, I felt it was the right time to give you some feedback on our first 'Surviving Winter' appeal.

One of the rewards of giving locally should be that you can feel you are making a direct impact on someone's life close to home and I hope this brief report goes some way towards explaining how we ran the appeal and how it has made a very real difference this winter.

In the same vein I very much hope you will feel able to tell us what you thought of the way we ran the appeal and what we could do better. I would particularly be pleased to hear if you feel you could help us promote the appeal to others in your community.

For now, can I thank you once again for your support.

Justin Sargent
Director

How did the Surviving Winter Appeal come about?

In 2008 we commissioned our first county-wide 'needs assessment' to help us understand better how the Foundation could make a difference in Somerset. One of the priorities that emerged from this was the needs of the many elderly people who are isolated and/or have to get by on low incomes.

When one of our supporters offered to donate his Winter Fuel Payment to us to help other pensioners in need we looked again at the challenges vulnerable elderly people face in the winter; what we found horrified us:

- Over **400 winter-related deaths** were recorded by the NHS in Somerset in 2009—90% were people over 60
- Over **33,000 pensioners are estimated to live in fuel poverty** (Centre for Sustainable Energy))
- Pensioners in rural areas spend almost **£600 a year more on heating** their home than pensioners in towns and cities (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

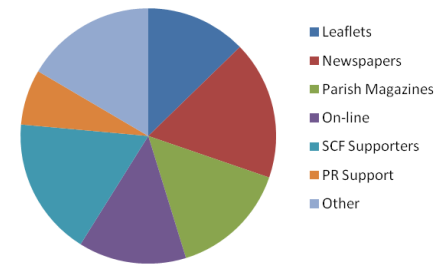
Using our links with a variety of local charities and community organisations working with the elderly, we felt we could deliver support to those most in need. With the help of Michael Eavis, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Tessa Munt MP, the Western Daily Press, the Mid-Somerset Series, BBC Somerset and ITV West, 'Surviving Winter' was born!

We must particularly thank Churton Inge Associates who helped us publicise the appeal and donated a huge amount of time voluntarily.

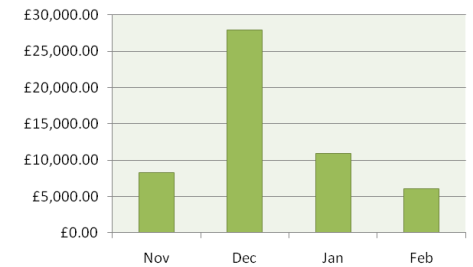
Raising the Funds

Over 300 people responded to the Surviving Winter Appeal with a donation, and the feedback from the public was exceptionally positive (echoed by Peter Stringfellow on Radio 4's 'You and Yours' programme!)

Source of Donations



Monthly Totals



Somerset Community Foundation is not one of the county's better known charities so it was particularly rewarding to see over 80% of the donations come from people who have not supported us before. To date over £54,000 has been donated directly with many donors adding gift aid on top of this.

Making a Difference

As a result of the appeal grants have been given out to help over 220 people with direct financial support delivered through local charities and community groups. The county's Care and Repair charities have also been able to provide affordable help to elderly people to repair boilers and broken windows, install insulation and other essential tasks. Here is some of the feedback we have received so far:

"We were able to pay out grants during the very cold period around Christmas. An elderly couple were having to live in one (single glazed) room with polythene sheeting over the windows in an effort to keep warm. All recipients have expressed thanks to the donors."

"Mrs H, who had been admitted to Musgrove with mild hypothermia is now back at our Club looking well and chatty after having extra heaters installed in her house. Everyone has asked me, on their behalf, to say a big thank you to all who made this possible."

"A member of our group with Multiple Sclerosis was able to buy a trailer-load of logs to keep her house warm."

"I live in an old house here in Shepton Mallet. I have problems with heating, especially in the bedroom. Therefore your contribution is most welcome and will help me to get through the winter."

"I was overwhelmed with the help I received from Taunton CAB."