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## Message from our Chair

It is not without a hint of sadness that I write this, my final introduction to our 2021/22 Annual Review. SCF is truly a very different organisation to the one I joined eight years ago, having grown and developed in so many ways for the better, in that time. During my time as Chair, I am very proud to say that we have awarded over £14 million of funding to local charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises, and doubled our annual funding programmes to become one of the largest independent funders of charities in the county.

There have been some challenging moments over the years, not least the Coronavirus pandemic when we had to make rapid adjustments to our governance. It was a great privilege to know that this work meant we were one of the first Community Foundations in the country to award grants from our Coronavirus Appeal just days after lockdown was announced, ensuring local charities had the funding they needed to reach the most vulnerable people in our communities as quickly as possible.

I have no doubt that SCF will continue to go from strength to strength with Michael Samuel at the helm, and that he will provide support and guidance to our fantastic team of staff, volunteers and trustees, every step of the way. I wish them all well for the future, particularly as they meet the challenges brought about by the cost-of-living crisis.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to every single person who has, over the years, played a part in SCF's role here in Somerset; from the hundreds of incredible grassroots organisations we fund each year, to the generosity of our wonderful donors and supporters, without whom, quite simply none of our work would have been possible.

y wife and I, along with our four children and grandchildren, have developed a strong affinity and attachment to Somerset since settling in the county more than twenty years ago.

I have also been a supporter of SCF for the last 10 years and have had the great pleasure of being able to fund many innovative grassroots organisations who are doing superb work to change lives in Somerset. Organisations I would not have found were it not for the knowledge and insight of the SCF team who do such an invaluable job connecting donors like me with inspiring charities.

I am fortunate to be taking on the role of Chair at a time when SCF is in a strong position having gone through a period of growth and development under Jane and Justin's leadership.

But I know that there remains a great deal of need in our communities. I hope to inspire others like me to give through SCF and to help grow our role as an integral part of the fabric of Somerset. By inspiring more local philanthropy, we can significantly grow our impact, strengthening our communities and improving the lives of many more people across the county.







## The need for our work

The pandemic had profound impacts on our communities and neighbours; it deepened inequality, it worsened mental and physical health, it stopped children from enjoying the social aspects of school and community life, and it has left economic scars on households and communities that will take many years to heal. As we look to move forward after these toughest of times, grassroots charities and community groups are at the very heart of helping people rebuild their lives and communities, and recover from the aftershocks that continue to ripple through our county.

For the people experiencing loneliness and isolation, there are therapeutic gardening projects popping up that use pockets of land to help people ground themselves, learn new skills and grow their wellbeing.

For the parents who gave birth in lockdown, or who faced the struggle of navigating work and home-schooling, there are charities providing practical and emotional support to help families build resilience and help young people process what they've been through.



For older people whose health has declined due to so much time spent indoors, there are walking groups, choirs, art groups and social clubs who are helping them to get out and about, build new friendships and find their way back to better health.

As we recover from one crisis, and head into another, it has never been clearer how vital our local charities are. More than ever, they need us to continue to inspire local giving and stand shoulder to shoulder with them to help people through the toughest of times and build stronger Somerset communities together.



## Our impact in 2021/22

What local charilies say about us

SCF has been a constant support to us. Advice has always been easy to obtain, and it feels good to be recognised as a charity delivering a much needed service in Somerset – a greatly empathetic partner for us.

Your willingness to listen and to advise has been critical to us. The impact of your support cannot be under-estimated, thank you so much.

Thank you for all you do.
So much good comes from philanthropic action in our community and you are at the front end of it in ours.

Funding from SCF and help from the insightful and supportive team that work there has been invaluable to our charity. Huge thanks to them and their generous funding partners.

Thanks to Somerset Community
Foundation we have been able to
reach out to even more people who
are struggling financially & mentally
during these difficult times.
Thank you for your support.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to SCF. You always provide our organisation with support, knowledge and expertise in Somerset. The team are always happy to help and our experience with you has only ever been extremely positive. The funding opportunities are great, easily accessible and the processes are simple to follow.

You really made the difference for our youth group, we can't convey exactly what it's meant to us, seriously – thank you for the great worthwhile work and support you provide locally.



Grants awarded: The difference we're making across Somerset

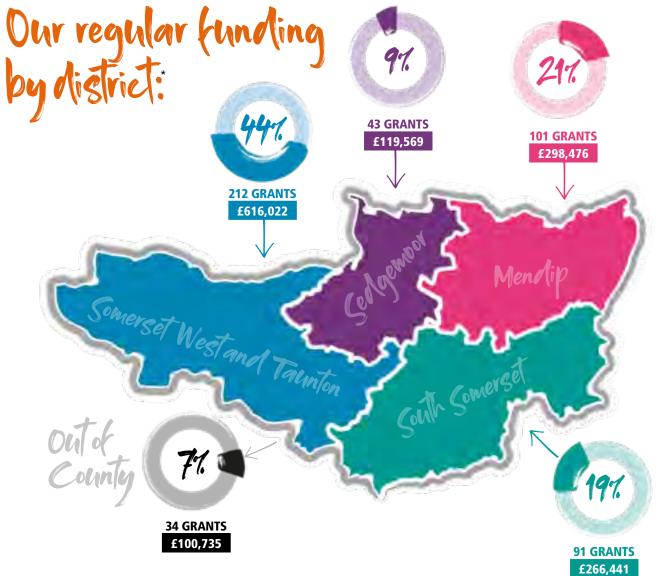
Overall SCF funding: £2,236,011

Grants awarded to organisations and individuals: 565

7 in 5 Somerset residents supported

Typical grant size: £2,400

Typical income of an organisation we fund: £17,159



<sup>\*</sup> Our regular funding programme is made up of private donor funds and these figures do not include funding from the Somerset Coronavirus Fund, the HPC Community Fund, or Somerset Social Enterprise Fund.

# Giving Mrohah Somersel Community Foundation

#### Somerset Philanthropy Network

#### Connecting passionate people to make a difference

Somerset Philanthropy Network is an influential and engaged group of donors who are passionate about supporting Somerset. Members donate £1,000 a year or more to the Foundation and have networking opportunities to deepen their understanding of local needs, network with other members, and be inspired and uplifted by people and projects that change lives every day.





Residents at
Westfield in
Yeovil making
good use of
some exercise
equipment,
thanks to
support from
the Donald
Lake Memorial
Fund

#### Giffs in Wills:

#### Could you support Somerset for generations to come?

Leaving a gift in your Will is an incredible way to change lives in Somerset for generations to come. Donors can name Somerset Community Foundation as a beneficiary in their Will to help us respond to urgent need, or can set up a Named Fund that will be held in our endowment to support a place or theme they are passionate about.

You can leave a gift of cash, shares, or property in your Will, and donating 10% or more of your net estate to charity can reduce the Inheritance Tax on the remainder of your estate from 40% to 36%.

#### Donald's story: The Donald Lake Memorial Fund

Donald Lake, from Yeovil, was a widower when he passed away and he left his entire estate to charity. His executors decided to invest the proceeds from the estate in our endowment, creating the Donald Lake Memorial Fund in 2010.

Since then, in Donald's name, we have awarded more than £20,000 of grants to support older people in Somerset. A recent grant has enabled Westfield Community Association to install outdoor exercise equipment and wheelchair-accessible picnic tables in the community garden.









Oli Moore, Community Development Manager and Laura Holden, Community Coach at Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust

#### Named Funds:

#### Making giving simple

Named Funds offer families and businesses all the benefits of a charitable trust, without time consuming administration. We provide expert philanthropy advice and ensure your donations make a real difference to the places and causes you care about most. You'll get regular updates and case studies from projects you've funded alongside opportunities to visit local charities and network with like-minded supporters. In essence, we make local giving simple, rewarding and impactful.

#### Working together to support good causes

We're committed to giving back to the communities where our employees and clients live and work. Although we are now a major national legal firm, we will never forget that our roots are deeply embedded in the life of Somerset, where it all began.

We found the idea of being able to donate Dormant Client Funds to SCF hugely appealing as it meant the funds could be brought back into use and make a difference in Somerset. We were reassured by the fact that SCF would indemnify the funds against any future claims, and liked that they could be invested in an endowment to make a long-term impact. We're delighted to have awarded almost 40 grants to some vital local charities through the Clarke Willmott Fund, and look forward to continuing to work together to support more good causes in the future."

Anna O'Reilly, Team Manager & founding member of the charity committee, Clarke Willmott LLP

#### The Somerset Fund:

#### **Changing lives together**

In 2018, we established The Somerset Fund to unite local businesses and families in support of small, local charities. All donations to The Somerset Fund are matched by 50% before being awarded as grants, meaning every gift makes an even bigger impact.

The fund offers an easy and rewarding way to support a wide range of causes, from youth clubs to village halls and social clubs for older people. Donors can benefit from networking and volunteering opportunities, as well as regular updates on the difference their donations have made.

Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust received a grant in 2021 to support the delivery of their community programmes

66 We strive to support all members of the local community. Our sessions include Mini Robins (ages 1–4), Youth Female Specific, Young Adults with Disabilities and Walking Football for the over 50s – amongst other football provisions. There is no key demographic, our activities are for everyone.

We offer free-to-attend sessions on the Hamp and Sydenham estates, here in Bridgwater. Thanks to the support we've received from The Somerset Fund over 300 people engage in our activities every week – opportunities that didn't previously exist in our area."

Oli Moore, Community Development Manager, Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust



Over the next twelve pages, we aim to give a sense of the breadth of life-changing work we fund across Somerset. Most importantly, we want to give a platform to some of the local charities we've funded in the last year and the brilliant people who, through these groups, work tirelessly to make a difference.

## Creating Strong, vibrant communities

**1713,787** Value of main grants awarded

The strength of a community depends on many things. People must feel connected, and like they belong. They also need to have involvement in the decisions that people within their communities make, creating a stronger, more resilient and vibrant community with long-term benefits to local people. Part of this is being able to access community hubs or travel further away when needed. This can be a particular challenge in more rural areas, or where car ownership is low.

Community transport providers are part of the solution to this challenge. They offer flexible solutions based on the requirements of people in their local area. All over Somerset, every day, hundreds of people get to where they need to be thanks to these organisations. These are the services that keep people connected to their communities, get them to work, go on social outings, and help them see a doctor.

There are many community transport schemes operating in Somerset. Some have modest fleets of minibuses while others run as volunteer driver schemes.

In the last year we supported South **Somerset Community Accessible** Transport, who we feature on the next page, with their running costs; keeping vehicles on the road during a year of rising fuel prices has become increasingly challenging. We funded Accessible Transport West Somerset £1,000 to continue producing a newsletter for passengers, a key point of contact and information for many of their isolated users, especially during the pandemic. And WiveyLink were awarded £5,000 to adapt one of their new vehicles to make it more accessible. This included an electric fold out step, rear parking sensors, and changes to the seating arrangement. Over in Frome, a further £4,000 was awarded to Active and In Touch to help run their volunteer driver scheme.

lan Broad, Operations
Manager at South Somerset
Community Accessible
Transport tells us about
how crucial grant funding
is for the organisation, and
how their service provides
vital links for local people,
many of whom live in rural
isolation.



"It's an ambition to make the vehicles more sustainable by purchasing some electric minibuses. I want us to become more visible and change the perception of community transport, so that more people know we are here for everyone."

## South Somerse Community Accessible Transport

We're a community accessible transport business which provides transport to people in our local community who are unable to access private or public transport. We have no restrictions when it comes to who uses our service, we provide transport to anybody in our community and we're aiming to make that more widely known.

The way we work is that we react to customers' requests – we are reactive not proactive; our license doesn't permit us to run scheduled routes but, of course, we have regular routes as many customers go on the same journeys every week. Membership is £10 a year and our fare scheme is based on parishes: so if you go on a journey which crosses from one parish to another you would pay for a two-parish journey.

We work closely with other local organisations such as MHA South Somerset (previously Live At

Home) and care homes, and the Memory Lane group for people living with dementia and their carers, as well as for a number of groups who use the Balsam Centre in Wincanton, which is our local community hub.

In Wincanton the doctor's surgery is out of town by over a mile, and many people are not able walk that far. Taxi fares for such journeys can be unviable.

As well as getting people from A to B – such as regular trips to the doctors, or weekly groups and society trips – we take people out on social outings to places like Weston-super-Mare, Weymouth, and Frome. Many of these people are geographically isolated and simply wouldn't get out or have the opportunity to socialise if it weren't for the CAT bus – as we're known locally. It sounds unbelievable, but we speak with people who use our buses, and we

are regularly told that our service genuinely makes a difference to people's lives.

Our most recent grant from Somerset Community Foundation was for our core costs: we have three basic costs we need to cover, which are wages for our drivers, fuel, and maintenance of the vehicles. This year those costs have gone up significantly. We're a very efficient organisation, but costs still have to be covered, and they are increasing disproportionately. It wouldn't be right to increase our rates further because our passengers are facing increased costs too – and at the end of the day we're a charity offering a service. Right now, grant funding is more vital than ever for us."

## Reducina loneliness and disadvantage





Grants from the Festive Fund bring communities together over the festive period to help reduce loneliness and spread warmth and cheer through food and activities.



**£131,108** Value of main grants awarded

The pandemic brought to light some of the many inequalities that have long existed in our communities. The result was stark: people under the age of 65 in the poorest parts of the country were nearly four times more likely to die from Covid-19 than those in the wealthiest areas. Sadly, we know the financial insecurities that grew during the pandemic loomed ever larger as the cost-of-living crisis took hold. Simply put, those who might have been struggling in the past are now facing poverty.

The charity sector cannot fix these problems, but we can help those with the most pressing needs. One way we are helping to reduce the impacts of poverty is through our long running Surviving Winter campaign, which is profiled on the next page.

Alongside Surviving Winter, our Festive Fund offered small grants of a few hundred pounds so that communities could come together in the darkest months, helping to combat loneliness and isolation for people of all ages. Many groups used their money to arrange a community Christmas meal, provide food or gift deliveries to those sheltering, or organise a festive group activity.

Over 40 communities from across Somerset received a Festive Fund grant in the year, including Cannington, Chard, Highbridge, Frome, Langport, Street, Watchet, Wellington, Wookey and more. This initiative is a great example of where a little bit of money can go a long way to reducing loneliness and boosting wellbeing.



I'm very pleased to be donating to Surviving Winter again this year. If you can afford to, we would be so pleased if you would consider giving some or all of your Winter Fuel Payment to the appeal. It is a simple and easy way to help people in our community who will be struggling to stay warm and healthy this winter."

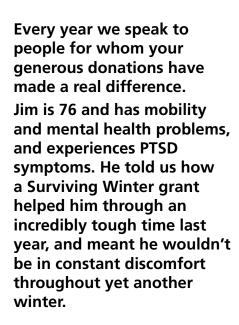
Michael Eavis, Founder of Glastonbury Festivals

This year we supported
778 vulnerable older
people in Somerset.
Alongside financial
support, our Surviving
Winter partners across the
county helped our older,
vulnerable neighbours to
access help and guidance
to make sure they were
warm, safe and well
through the winter months.



No one should have to choose between heating and eating

#### **Surviving Winter**



Last year we were experiencing numerous difficulties. Winter heating has always been a financial challenge for us. There's no insulation here, it's just not possible in this flat. There's mould in the bathroom. Our landlord is nice, and has redecorated the bathroom for us, but the mould and damp comes back. It's a cheap build, and it's cold and damp every winter. One week, last winter, I was so cold in bed, I had a blanket on over my duvet. I'd tried to wear my socks to keep my feet from being cold, but the health problems I experience from a spinal injury meant I couldn't. It was just unbearable. It was then that I realised the duvet must have been at least 15 years old.

Thanks to my Surviving Winter grant, I was able to buy a winter weight duvet, some warm wool jumpers and a pair of corduroy trousers – I managed to get some bargains in the sale, too.

We were also advised by the Surviving Winter partner to change our electricity providers, and our monthly electricity bill has gone down by over 70% – which is just phenomenal. It's been so incredibly tough every winter and the help, advice and Surviving Winter grant made such a difference to us."





## Advancing really and well peing

£121,803 Value of main grants awarded

The last few years have shown us all just how important our health is, and how important it is to be able to access support to stay healthy.

Although daily walks were encouraged, many of us exercised less during the lockdowns and, for some, the anxiety and stress has really taken its toll. Getting back to good physical and mental health can be challenging, but we are very fortunate in Somerset to have an abundance of green space that can be profoundly good for our health.

We're also lucky to have a wealth of innovative grassroots groups offering support to help people bounce back and stay healthy. One of these approaches is therapeutic horticulture – the use of plants and gardens to improve health and wellbeing. This year we funded eight of these projects around the county, including Cultivating Community on the next page.

Elsewhere in the county other organisations we supported included Growing Roots, based in Wells, who set up gardening projects with a therapeutic focus for children, young people and their families, alongside Seed of Hope, a social enterprise in Bridgwater, that helps to change lives through a blend of horticulture, yoga and group sessions

And we funded ARK at Egwood, near Crewkerne, who support people with learning disabilities and mental health problems by engaging in horticulture, cooking, and rural arts and crafts, alongside interaction with animals such as goats, ponies and therapy pigs.



Dr Samantha Evans,
Founder/Managing Director
of Cultivating Community
CIC tells us how the £30,000
finance package from the
Somerset Social Enterprise
Fund (SSEF) has helped
her significantly grow her
organisation.



66 The blended funding from the Somerset Social Enterprise Fund has allowed us to develop a new stream of business and purchase our seed counting machine, which is enabling us to package seeds and sell them online all year round."

### Cultivating Community CIC

We support a range of different people – but particularly anyone who finds themselves isolated or lonely. We offer a range of social and therapeutic gardening programmes aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities, mental health problems, and we also offer work skills training for young people. Our reach is very much local and rural. We are embedded within our community and work with our surrounding villages.

I think people tend to feel more included when they are involved in participatory activities such as gardening and other nature-based things that also have a social component that connects them. We have a café here on site, as well as a plant nursery – and all funds raised through selling the plants support the activities we put on.

We are about befriending and

connecting people, and people who come and spend time here are part of a welcoming community environment. I believe we offer something special and there's continuity between our programmes. People will move on from one programme to the next or start volunteering with us, once they've learnt new skills or gained confidence. For many it can feel like a real achievement once they start engaging and experiencing a social life.

We learnt the hard way through the Covid lockdowns that the seasonality of trade here at the garden creates fiscal vulnerability. We had practically no income for 6 months of the year while closed during the winter. The blended funding from the Somerset Social Enterprise Fund has allowed us to develop a new stream of business and purchase our seed counting machine, which is enabling us to

package seeds and sell them online all year round.

The support from the SSEF has got us investment ready and accelerated our growth hugely and we now plan to take on a community park café and hub in Victoria Park, Frome. We're essentially duplicating our model to bring Victoria Park to life as part of Frome's Green and Healthy Future partnership. It will double the size of our social enterprise and I couldn't even have begun to think about doing it without the funding – it's really allowed us to expand.

Not only has the funding helped us grow our business, I've received some fabulous advice and support from Somerset Community Foundation which has been invaluable. It really helped me to think about the direction my business was headed and where I wanted to take it."





## Transforming lives

£121,803 Value of main grants awarded

We're passionate about funding charities working to provide 'early intervention' – getting intensive support to people with complex needs to help them overcome challenges before they hit crisis point.

In partnership with Somerset County Council, we've awarded almost £450,000 in Early Help grants that were designed to do just this. These projects, which are being delivered over 3 years, offer targeted packages of support to families. Our aim was to increase resilience so that families can overcome adversity and build brighter futures for themselves.

They include awards of £50,000 - £75,000 to some of Somerset's most high-impact organisations: **Home-Start West Somerset** received funding to deliver volunteer-led, regular support for parents of young children in West Somerset, and PROMISEworks was awarded a grant which helped them secure a permanent service mentoring disadvantaged children and their families in Mendip. A grant to The Balsam Centre provided a comprehensive package of support for families in need in Wincanton, Castle Cary and Bruton, and Somerset Counselling Centre was awarded almost £60,000 to deliver My Family Talking Gateway, a project that supports those with complex problems to access systematic family therapy.

From this fund we also supported RAISE, which is now part of Young Somerset, to provide services to minority ethnic households in South Somerset, alongside funding for group-based early intervention support for families with pre-school children facilitated by Purple Elephant in Frome. Together these innovative organisations have been able to provide vital support to some of the most disadvantaged people in Somerset.



Youth Unlimited were awarded a £108,000 grant over three years to fund and deliver the Young Carers in Schools programme across Somerset. **Project Coordinator, Mel Bicknell,** tells us more about the awards programme.



ff There are 260 schools in Somerset that are eligible for this award and I'd love to see at least 20% of them taking part in the programme at the end of our three years funding."

#### Youth Unlimited

I'm absolutely passionate about The Young Carers in Schools awards programme. It's an England-wide initiative that equips schools to identify and support young carers, and I work with the young carers leads within the pastoral teams in schools across the whole of Somerset. Our grant from Somerset Community Foundation has funded my role, which is to support the schools and make sure they have the tools and knowledge to identify and help pupils who are young carers.

The biggest challenge myself and the schools face is identifying the young carers in the first place; many of them are worried about coming forward and identifying themselves - either they don't want to appear different or they are worried about the stigma that could be attached to either themselves or their families if they speak up. Some don't even

realise that they are young carers. We're here to equip them with the information to be able to recognise that. We also have peer support groups, both for the young carers and the pastoral teams and teachers too. We also help take the administrative burden off schools by supporting young carers and have arranged for Youth Workers to trial some drop-in sessions within the school setting. With our links to the YMCA and other organisations we're hoping the support for young carers in schools will continue to grow alongside the number of participating schools. When I started this role there was not one single school in Somerset on the programme, and eight

months later we are at a point where 13 schools have submitted their 'base-line reviews' - which is a document which helps them review what provision they already have in place with a view to increasing and improving it.

There are 260 schools in Somerset that are eligible for this award and I'd love to see at least 20% of them taking part in the programme at the end of our three years funding.

There is a primary school that I work with in Bridgwater, which is a very caring and nurturing school. They were already aware of the programme, and had identified 6 young carers. But after 3 months we'd identified a total of 14 young carers at the school.

We understand that every school is different, and we'll do whatever we can to help tailor the provisions and support on offer."



Horseshoes and Handprints' first client from 2013, pictured here in 2021 at Move the Mind, which helps children with autism and other neuro-cognitive conditions.



Community Foundation and the Mary's Beat fund for helping us to fund Harrison's new Tomcat trike. He loves it and was so happy to receive it for his 8th birthday. The different control options mean he can achieve a level of independence, which is brilliant for boosting his confidence and self-esteem." Harrison's mum, Natasha



6 With the help of the Mary's Beat grant, I was able to join the Disability Sailing Association based in Torbay. Having had to give up my lifetime hobby of dingy sailing due to myotonic dystrophy, this has enabled me to continue my passionate interest and ability to sail. This has made a massive difference to my health and well-being. I am very thankful to Somerset Community Foundation for this grant." Paul Whybrow

### Grants to individuals

£93,517 Value of grants to individuals



I would like to thank you for the Huish Exhibition Fund bursary via Somerset Community Foundation. I put the entire sum towards course books and publications, which were an enormous help to me academically, so thank you, once again."

Huish's Exhibition Fund bursary recipient

Alongside awarding funding to hundreds of community groups every year, we also run ten grants programmes and educational bursaries that directly support individuals in Somerset. We're passionate about ensuring that individuals in Somerset are supported and during the year we've awarded over 150 grants and bursaries to help individuals and young people access new training, educational or employment opportunities, try new activities, participate in therapies, or start up or support a young person's business. You can read David's story on the next page.

We awarded grants to 23 young people from The Horseshoes and Handprints Fund, which supports children and young people with special educational needs relating to neurological conditions, such as autism or developmental delay, to access equine therapies during the

year. The fund was created using money held by the Horseshoes and Handprints Trust, which was transferred to Somerset Community Foundation when the Trust closed. Financial barriers would otherwise have prevented these young people from accessing this unique form of therapy.

Mary's Beat is a memorial fund which was set up by her parents after Mary sadly passed away in 2017. The fund awards grants of up to £1,000 for people with a physical and/or learning disability to participate in an activity which, without the grant, would not have been available to them, such as music therapy, one-off concerts and outdoor activities that build self-confidence, encourage participation and inspire hope for the future.











David Santander, Founder of 3D Printed Armoury, received a South West Enterprise Fund grant for £1,000 in January 2022, towards the cost of equipment and material for his 3D printing business.

44 3D printing had been a hobby of mine for a couple of years, and in the summer of 2020 I found myself furloughed. With nothing else to do, I started doing a few custom orders for people.

I had been experiencing some health issues and was told by my employer not to return to the workplace, until my health improved. Unfortunately my health didn't improve and I was eventually laid off.

I have limited employment options, due to my current health problems. I'm seeing a neurologist but my condition affects my mental capacity and causes my brain to be overworked all the time as it fights to stabilise, which in turn has affected my memory. I used to be an accountant and before that I was a chef, but I now need something that's easier on my health.

So, after I was laid off, I started focusing more on the 3D printing and tried to make a living out of it. I started making more custommade orders through a few of the online selling platforms, including Ebay and Etsy. And this year my business turnover has improved by 300–400%.

A friend of mine told me that grants were available for young people to set up or expand a business so I looked into it. Before I received my grant from Somerset Community Foundation I had been working in my living room. The grant meant that I could set up my spare room as a workshop. I put down new flooring to protect the carpet, bought extra equipment and printers, and installed ventilation to extract the fumes from the printer. I use a plant-

based resin for the 3D printing, which has a very low toxicity, but I'm still very careful – I still need to wear gloves to protect my skin.

I buy the resin in bulk to get the best prices, and I pass those savings on to my customers, which means I'm more competitive in the market. I offer discounts and I try and keep my prices as low as possible while still making sure I cover my costs. Little ways of saving money all mount up.

I mainly supply boardgame characters and miniatures to the gaming community, but I want to get more into the dentistry field. They use a special resin which is much more expensive, but 3D printing is already starting to be used for moulds for braces, retainers and dentures. It will become a lot more common in the future – it's more accurate and less invasive for the patient.

I've received lots of help and support since I applied for the grant. There has always been someone at SCF to talk to and the application process was very straightforward and easy.

I'm so grateful for this grant – it's really helped to turn my business around."

# Commu













The HPC Community Fund helps to mitigate the impact of the construction of the Hinkley Point C power station on local communities. It is part of a broader £20m community funding programme created through the planning agreement for Hinkley Point C and funded by EDF. Since it was launched, just four-and-a-half years ago, over £5 million has been committed to support a highly diverse range of charities, voluntary groups and organisations that improve the local quality of life, enhance community wellbeing and create new opportunities for people.

The pandemic has served to remind us of how important community life is, and this fund is making a crucial contribution to ensure the communities around Hinkley Point C continue to thrive.

For further detail and more stories from organisations the fund has supported, visit: www.hpcfunds.co.uk or contact us to request a copy of the HPC Community Fund Annual Report 2021/22.

Value of grants awarded: £621,266

Number of grants awarded this year: 51

Amount of match funding secured: £378,794



#### Ullerhampton ing Fenced Fund

The parish of Otterhampton was allocated funding of £500,000 within the Hinkley Point C site planning agreement. A team comprising members of the Parish Council and community representatives identify projects and schemes put forward by the community to mitigate impacts being felt within the parish. This year, two grants have been awarded.

#### Small Grants





#### Open Grants

The Open Grants programme is available for any Somerset VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) organisation to apply for funding in response to the impacts or opportunities being felt in their communities as a result of the Hinkley Point C development. It was launched in late 2018 and in this financial year, 12 groups received grant awards.

GWe used our grant to grow our Volunteer Visiting Befriending Service in the Sedgemoor district of the county. Each volunteer is an absolute lifeline and provides contact with the outside world. We're so grateful for the funding from the HPC Community Fund, which enables us to provide this life changing service for people with sight loss living in the area."

Jackie Sopwith, Chief Executive, Somerset Sight

This programme offers grants of up to £5,000 for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises with an annual income of less than £100,000. It will also consider applications for up to £10,000, awarded over a three-year period, if the projects can demonstrate that they are addressing 'exceptional circumstances'. In this financial year, 36 groups received funding through the Small Grants programme. Projects include supporting refugees, improving employment opportunities, enhancing the local environment and developing local amenities in addition to supporting groups with their core costs to help them better serve their communities.

grant for £5,000 in 2021 allowed us to continue working on creating a permanent space in which isolated people can come together. Workers and their families can integrate into the community through The Minehead Shed, promoting a sense of wellbeing and avoiding any potential feelings of isolation, enriching the experience of the whole community."

Andrew Hazlewood, Chair of the Trustees, The Minehead Shed



This grants programme targets specific impacts felt within Somerset communities. identified through consultation with communities and their representatives in 2017/18. The Strategic Grants were awarded in 2018/19 and Community Cohesion was the first theme to be identified. The second theme was Out of Hours Social Activities. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many projects continued beyond the timescale originally agreed, and some were awarded continuation funding to mitigate the ongoing impacts felt in their communities.

the HPC Community Fund has been invaluable, because it has meant that we been able to facilitate integration of migrant workers and their families into the local community, alongside helping the communities we serve to face the additional and disproportionate challenges they met from the pandemic and the UK's exit from the European Union."

Louise Russ, Treasurer and Trustee, Diversity Voice





In spring 2021, we launched our new strategy, **Thriving Somerset Communities**, in which we set out four key strategic priorities for the next four years that will help us better respond to the needs of our charities, donors and communities now and in the future.

More targeted and effective funding including more core, flexible and multi-year funding

Use our knowledge and insight to influence social change

Significantly grow funding for our communities by raising more funds

Build an organisation that reflects the communities we serve, including improving diversity, equity and inclusion

In November 2021, we published **Hidden Somerset:** Food Poverty, the fourth of our Hidden Somerset reports which shine a spotlight on issues that are often hidden from view or not widely understood.

The report took an in depth look at the growing issue of food poverty in Somerset and highlighted that over 70,000 people in Somerset are worried about providing enough food for their household. Our survey of the local voluntary and community sector found that there was a 63% increase in demand faced by community food projects between 2019–2021, and 60% of community food projects reported working with clients who needed their support on a regular basis.

Food poverty is a complex and multi-faceted social issue; whilst local charities and community groups play a vital role in tackling the issue, we can't ignore the need for national governmental support, such as increased welfare benefits to lift people out of poverty and investment in local infrastructure, transport and enterprise to increase opportunity in rural communities.

# Foundation grants made to organisations during 2024/22



#### Mendip

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description	
1st North Mendip Scout Group	3,000	New equipment for Scout group to reinstate activities	
7 Starlings (3 grants)	15,028	Equipment and refurbishment for reopening of a community hub in Shepton Mallet	
Active and In Touch (2 grants)	6,500	Community drivers and befriending and other support activities for isolated older people	
Anglo Boxing Sports Community Centre (2 grants)	4,042	Equipment for a community sports club	
Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership	7,950	Therapeutic horticulture sessions for young adults with learning disabilities and autism	
Citizens Advice Mendip (3 grants)	8,020	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter and other volunteer-led advice services	
COSMiC – Centre of Somerset Music Club	3,000	Purchase and maintenance of instruments and a recruitment drive for aspiring young musicians	
Cruse Bereavement Care Somerset	3,000	Remote bereavement support during coronavirus	
Cultivating Community	3,000	Extra staffing to develop and continue 'connect and grow' programmes to help with health	
<b>Edventure Frome</b>	6,000	Marketing support for SHARE Frome	
Feed Avalon	2,010	Garden to Plate courses using grown produce to help with health and wellbeing	
Frome Field 2 Fork	4,586	Increasing capacity and accessibility of a community growing site	
Frome Medical Practice CIC	24,860	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter	
Glastonbury Community Development Trust (2 grants)	11,257	Adapting website and training volunteers to support job seekers and volunteers	
Glastonbury FM	5,000	Support to work with wider community and ongoing costs	
Glastonbury Mental Health Network	2,500	Diversifying income through community engagement events	
Green Door Families	2,500	Meals on Wheels service for older people in Street	
Openstorytellers (2 grants)	10,000	Open access sessions for adults with learning disabilities and autism in Frome	
PACE (Personal Achievements Creative Experiences)	3,540	Support for people with multiple disabilities in Frome	
Pilton Pre-school/Pilton Playgroup	4,400	Establishing forest school sessions for local children	
Project Factory	8,704	Community Jubilee celebrations across Wells	
Purple Elephant Productions	2,021	Costs of summer holiday activities to support local disadvantaged and vulnerable families	
Reimagining the Levels	3,000	Contribution towards tools for children's gardening groups	
Root Connections (3 grants)	19,750	Increasing sales of flowers and vegetables, wellbeing and educational workshops, and more therapeutic practitioners to help with the increased demand	
Rotary Club of Frome Selwood	4,500	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter	
Somer Valley Education Trust	2,500	Supporting young adults with learning disabilities and autism to learn communications, production and media skills at a community radio station	
St Edmund's Community Hall	3,000	Cosmetic improvements for community hall	
St Mary's Church Frome	2,500	Resurfacing the church hall's outdoor space	
The Lawrence Centre	2,098	Activities, outings and support for older people and their carers in Wells	
The Mendip School	3,000	Development of a forest school for pupils with special needs	
The Old Stores Studio	3,847	Cleaning and adapting studio spaces for safe and wider use	
The Rubbish Art Project	10,000	Art sessions for adults with learning disabilities in Mendip	
Wells Art Contemporary	4,000	Involving mental health groups within an art exhibition at Wells Cathedral	
Wells Cricket Club (2 grants)	4,521	New training facilities and equipment for a community sports club	
-			

#### Somerset West and Taunton

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description
@2K Theatre	2,500	Rehearsal space improvements for community use
2BU Somerset	2,021	Staff and transport costs to provide sports activities for LGBTQ+ young people
Actiontrack	3,000	Personal development sessions for NEET young people
Bradford-on-Tone Village Shop Association	2,500	Refurbishing a rural community-run shop
Carhampton Recreation Group	3,000	Refurbishing a community sports hall
Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC	2,500	Peer support for new parents
Conquest Centre	50,000	Moving the Conquest Centre to a new location
Dunster Festival	2,500	Developing a collaborative piece of choral music with children
Escape Support Group	5,000	Core costs for a group supporting parents with children with additional needs
Escapeline	5,000	County lines awareness raising resource packs for schools
Exmoor Rural Health Hub	11,452	Establishing a targeted health service for the farming community
Friends of Dunster School	2,200	Enhancing outdoor area for growing projects for a school
In the Mix Youth Project	2,021	Core and project costs for a life skills programme
Knights Templar School and Community Association	2,000	Therapeutic learning and play resource
Minehead EYE	7,500	Diversifying income through development of a hotdesking business space
North Taunton Partnership	5,250	Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the community
ROC Taunton Deane	2,000	Supporting family mentoring scheme
Somerset Cricket Foundation (2 grants)	4,690	Training and development of the new champions to help with mental health
State of Trust	2,500	Workshops and an event to mark Black History Month
Stogursey and District Victory Hall Committee	2,021	Running costs for youth club
Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club	2,021	Coaching and equipment for young people at a free or low cost
Taunton East Development Trust	3,000	Tables, newsletter and branded clothing for reopening
Taunton Stroke Club	3,000	Core costs of a community support group
Taunton YMCA	100,000	Roof renovation
The Bluebirds Theatre Company	7,500	Diversifying income through different community theatre projects
The Brompton Regis Village Shop	3,000	Adaptations and equipment for local community shop
The MATA Regal Theatre	4,000	Running costs to support reopening of the theatre
The Milverton Trust	3,499	Jubilee events for the community
Transition Town Wellington	2,743	Equipment for a community growing site
Wellington Community Counselling	7,500	Increasing income by growing the number of people accessing community counselling
Wellington Mills CIC	2,400	Creating a forest garden for the community
Western Somerset Forum 21 (2 grants)	19,500	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter and a new vehicle for delivering and extracting wood fuel
WHERE (4 grants)	10,500	Social activities, minibus costs and exercise classes for isolated older people in Wellington
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership (2 grants)	5,000	Vehicle accessibility adaptations for a community transport service
Wiveliscombe Community Swimming Pool Club (2 grants)	4,521	Improvements to a local community swimming pool
Wivey Cares	5,000	Core costs of meeting the care needs of older people



#### South Somerset

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description	
2nd South Petherton Scout Group	2,021	Equipment for outdoor camps	
ARK at Egwood (2 grants)	16,500	Contribution towards the development of a therapeutic horticulture organisation	
Art Care Education (2 grants)	15,000	Supporting local art gallery in a rural community	
BIBIC	3,000	To support fee waivers for low income families in need of therapy	
Bruton United (2 grants)	4,521	Running costs for a sports club	
Carymoor Environmental Trust	7,500	Growing income through increased school and education classes	
Chard WATCH (2 grants)	10,580	Online forums for people with mental health problems	
Charlton's Youth Club	3,000	Youth work in a rural area	
Citizens Advice South Somerset	5,300	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter	
Crewkerne Boxing Club	2,021	Equipment for youth members in a sports club	
EAQ Manor Farm	3,000	Creation of a Growing for the Future garden	
Huish & Langport Cricket Club	2,021	Coach training and equipment for youth section	
Ilminster Entertainment Society	4,000	Repairs to roof of community building to enable reopening	
Kingsdon Community Shop	2,500	Community shop building repairs	
Langport and Huish Episcopi Youth Group	2,021	Costs of sports activities which offer team work and a chance to learn new skills	
People First Dorset	4,352	Distributing newsletter and restarting activities for people with learning disabilities	
Plotgate Community Farm	3,200	Supporting volunteers and trainees at the farm by improving facilities and training	
Polonia & Friends	2,021	Remote support for families where English is a second language	
Reach Out (SW) CIC	3,000	Support programmes for struggling families	
Somerspirit	2,021	Core costs and equipment for a sailing club	
South Cadbury Village Hall Committee	2,500	Replacement kitchen for reopening of a village hall	
South Petherton Tennis Club	2,000	New accessible clubhouse for all users	
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport	5,000	Core costs of delivering a community transport scheme	
Sparkford Cricket Club	2,021	New practice nets for a community sports club	
St Peters Church Yeovil	3,000	Establishing a new community hub in a disadvantaged area of Yeovil	
The Balsam Centre	32,486	Supporting the growth and development of the Well Wessex group of charities	
The Hub Yeovil Community Support Charity	7,500	Growing traded income through their onsite cafe	
The Magdalen Environmental Trust (3 grants)	38,806	Contributions towards projects for young carers, young people with additional needs and forest school outreach from a South Somerset Farm	
The Rendezvous	2,818	English and maths support for NEET young people	
Westfield Community Association (2 grants)	9,000	Grants supporting social and leisure activities for older people in the community	
Westlands Wasps	2,021	Goals and equipment for youth section	
Winsham Recreational Trust	5,000	Refurbishment of facility to assist reopening	
Yeovil Art Space (2 grants)	6,000	Programme to help the community to reconnect and rebuild links and youth-led arts activities	
Yeovil Community Sports & Recreation Organisation (2 grants)	5,000	Ongoing costs for pavilion to enable reopening and improvement of facilities	
Yeovil United Football Club	2,021	Equipment for youth section of a football club	

#### Sedgemoor

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description
Autism Somerset	6,000	Online autism services and a new day service in Bridgwater
Berrow Football Club	2,021	Contribution towards permanent storage for a Community Football Club
Brent Knoll Community Shop Limited	7,500	Increasing trade in the village shop
Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Football Club Youth Section	2,021	Running costs and equipment
Bridgwater Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club	3,000	78th Anniversary of the D-Day landings memorial trip
<b>Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust</b> (4 grants)	14,521	Development of a sports club embedded in the community in Bridgwater
Burnham United Football Club	2,021	Pitch hire costs for the junior teams
Citizens Advice Sedgemoor	3,225	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter
Diversity Voice	3,700	Staff time for induction, training and peer support
Live Naturally	12,000	Increasing engagement in healthy lifestyle classes
Love Community CIC	9,744	Reconnecting people with learning disabilities and autism through gaming
North Petherton RFC	2,021	Training for youth section volunteers
Sedgemoor Community Partnership	2,500	Core costs for a community hub
Seed Sedgemoor	10,000	Jubilee arts event for the community
The Nurture Shed	4,830	Adapting community wellbeing space for reopening
The Pod	7,500	Developing a mobile scrapstore

#### More than one district

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description
Age UK Somerset (2 grants)	8,500	Dementia support and small grants to help older people stay warm in winter
Ausomer	2,500	Establishing peer support groups for people with autism
Centre for Sustainable Energy (2 grants)	4,500	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter
Community Council for Somerset	66,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter
Escapeline	4,000	To fund an educator to provide Child Criminal Exploitation awareness workshops to pupils aged 10–16
Family Counselling Trust Somerset	4,842	Adapting services to cover increased demand for subsidised counselling
Headway Somerset	2,500	Introducing money management and budgeting skills for people with acquired brain injuries
PROMISEworks	5,000	Core running costs of a mentoring service for disadvantaged children across Somerset
Reminiscence Learning	3,000	Funday Friday community sessions for people with dementia
Sheba Soul Ensemble	10,000	Interactive theatre production in collaboration with 10 schools in Somerset for the Platinum Jubilee
Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership	4,180	Infrastructure support for community activities
Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support	5,000	Adaptations to counselling rooms and premises
Somerset Parent Carer Forum (3 grants)	26,425	Contribution towards projects supporting young people and adults with learning disabilities, additional needs or autism
Somerset Youth Theatre	7,500	Expanding youth theatre provision across the county
Spark Somerset	3,500	Contribution to the costs of a research project to give a voice to a broad range of groups and organisations
SSAFA Somerset	6,000	Small grants to help older people stay warm in winter
The Nelson Trust	2,500	New gardening group at a Women's Centre
Youth UnLimited (2 grants)	108,000	Contribution towards projects supporting young people in Somerset



#### Out of County

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description
128th St. Oswald Guides	2,021	Core costs and members event to re-open after COVID
Bristol Academy Netball Club	2,021	Coaching development training for young people
Downend Amateur Boxing Club	2,021	Core costs to recover from COVID impacts
F.R.E.E. Weston	2,021	Venue costs for free running group
Futsoul 360	2,021	Effective futsal-focused early intervention programmes delivered by trusted coaches
Ignite Life	2,021	Mentoring Support for young people
Japan Arts Centre Police Sport UK	2,021	Judo Club venue hire
Minerva Bath Rowing Club	2,021	Subsidised 'learn to row' courses
Nailsea Junior FC	2,021	Core costs and members event to re-open after COVID
Nova Sports and Coaching	2,021	Subsidised 1:1 support for young people with disabilities
Pak Bristolians CC	2,021	Venue hire and equipment for youth team
Roman Boxing Gym	2,021	Boxing gym equipment
South Gloucestershire Hockey Club	2,021	Restarting the 8+ youth section and to create a hockey family
The Grove at Bedminster Down	2,021	Sport Youth Club core costs



303 grants under £2,000 were awarded, totalling £298,077

Grants to individuals in the year totalled £93,517

#### Social investments awarded in 2021/22

Organisation	£ Grant	£ Loan	Project description
Bridgwater and Albion RFC (2 grants)	8,200	8,200	Business recovery following the coronavirus pandemic
Cultivating Community CIC	10,000	20,000	Equipment and working capital
Edventure Frome Community Interest Company	8,500	17,000	Marketing support for SHARE Frome
Halse & District Community Benefit Society	16,667	33,333	Purchase, refurbish, repair and reopen the New Inn Public House at Halse
Live Naturally (Formerly Outdoor Challenge)	13,333	26,667	Building a pre-school and venue for the community in Bridgwater
We're Eco C.I.C, We're Eco Wood Recycling (4 payments)	20,000	0	Marketing and sales support
WHY Gallery	6,250	12,500	Working capital to support growth of trading and community benefit

#### HPC Community Fund

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description	
Berrow and Brean Good Neighbours	1,000	Venue costs for a community hub	
Bridgwater Amateur Swimming Club	5,000	Contribution towards diving starting blocks and backstroke ledges	
Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign	5,000	Salary costs for a part time administrator for a cycling campaign	
Bridgwater Tennis Club	5,000	Replacing/upgrading floodlights on three all weather astro tennis courts	
Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society	1,125	Running costs for venue hire and insurance as a result of lost fundraising opportunities	
Burnham & Highbridge Sea Cadet Unit	2,500	Core costs to cover loss of income from hall bookings during the pandemic	



#### HPC Community Fund continued

Foundation Grants over £2,000	£ Value	Project description
Burnham Book Festival	3,000	Costs of a literary festival with the aim of connecting local people and building literacy
Burnham-on-Sea Heritage Centre	1,000	Contribution towards leaflets to promote the Burnham-on-Sea Heritage Trail
Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC	5,000	Costs towards parent support group in Taunton and Bridgwater
Centre for Outdoor Activity & Community Hub (COACH)	1,000	Installation of a community defibrillator unit in a secure cabinet
Cheddar Catholic Church Community Hall	6,000	A contribution towards building costs of Cheddar Catholic Church's new community hall
Church of St Mary, Bridgwater	5,000	Play equipment for a new toddler/carer group
Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Cossington	5,000	Contribution towards new chairs for community events
Community Council for Somerset	100,000	A project providing support for ethnically diverse communities in Somerset through two dedicated members of staff
Compton Bishop Parish Council	1,000	Funding for a community film club in Cross Memorial Hall
Crimestoppers in the West Country	49,523	A drama project in schools to explore different challenging situations and build confidence and resilience
Diversity Voice	60,000	Salary costs for two community workers to provide information, advice and translation services
Escape Support Group	5,000	Core costs to support rent expenses
IN:CH (Incubation Chamber)	660	A contribution towards a community arts event in Bishops Lydeard
Kingston St Mary Playing Field Committee	3,000	Contribution to new play and exercise equipment in the playing fields
Otterhampton Parish Council	31,242	Resurface of the play area
Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association	11,180	Funding for a ride-on lawnmower to maintain the green
Otterhampton Village Hall	14,299	Contribution towards the refurbishment of the village hall
Packhorse Playing Field	1,500	Resurfacing of a community play area
Polden Bower School	25,000	The refurbishment of a classroom into a cafe and life skills area in the new Post-16 Centre
PROMISEworks	65,203	Funding to mentor disadvantaged and vulnerable young people
RAF Air Cadets 290 Squadron and 290 Squadron Detached Flight	3,600	Core costs to cover loss of income from hall bookings during the pandemic
Ride Mendips	10,000	Bikes and safety equipment for the community pump track
Sedgemoor Community Partnership	2,500	Core costs to replace lost income from room hire and rental fees
Sedgemoor Dementia Action Alliance	5,000	Establishing a weekly Memory Cafe for people of Bridgwater and Sedgemoor
Somerset Child Contact Centres	10,000	Support for running costs of the Bridgwater Child Contact Centre
Somerset Wildlife Trust	90,830	Staff salaries and training costs including re-wilding projects
Somerset Youth & Community Sailing Association	5,000	A contribution towards a new safety boat for a community sailing association
St Francis of Assisi PCC	5,000	Funding for the costs of a holiday activity club
Stacked Wonky	5,000	Contribution towards a dance performance academy
Taunton Street Pastors	24,800	To support volunteer pastors to deliver patrols in Bridgwater every weekend for 3 years
The Bluebirds Theatre Company (Bluebird Theatre CIC)	5,000	Running costs and contribution to solar panels for future sustainability
The Hub at Bridgwater	5,000	Establishing weekend craft community groups with links to support services
The Minehead Hope Centre	5,000	Project to help clients who are experiencing drug/alcohol abuse or those who are homeless
The Minehead Shed	5,000	Contribution to the costs of setting up a Men's Shed
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Heathfield with Cotford St Luke	300	Installation of security cameras for the youth club
Wembdon Art Group	850	Running costs for a community art group
Wembdon Community Association	4,150	Core costs to recover from lost fundraising opportunities during the pandemic
Wembdon Parish Council	13,507	Installation of wheelchair accessible play equipment



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We're hugely grateful to all our supporters who make our work possible. We can only give vital funding to hundreds of life-changing small charities across Somerset thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses and public sector organisations. Together, we change the lives of many thousands of local people for the better, every year.

We would also like to say a big thank you for the dedication and support of our volunteer Trustees, panel members and office volunteers for generously giving their time and expertise to support the Foundation.

#### Somerset Philanthropy Network

We're very thankful to each and every member of Somerset Philanthropy Network, a community of passionate people who want to change the world on their doorstep and who provide vital support for the work of the Foundation.

Amanda Ellingworth
Bruce Mcintosh
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Lady Louise Patten
Lucy and James Nelson
Martin Stanley
Mauren Whitmore
Nicholas and Diana Barber
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Tim Walker

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Thanks to Somerset County Council for partnering to provide 50% matched funding for every donation, which means our supporters make an even bigger impact in our communities.

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