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Message from our Chair and CEO

The resilience of our local charities, community groups and social enterprises has been tested to the limit during the past year. Not only have they had to adjust to the long-term impacts of the pandemic on their work, but many have faced the unexpected strain of high inflation on their already stretched budgets. This coincides with ever-increasing demand for services due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on individual households.

We know that it's not been easy, but our local organisations have shown – again – remarkable fortitude and ingenuity to meet these challenges, build hope and create new opportunities. Our key objective is to inspire more local giving so we can provide further funding, greater flexibility and more long-term support to help ease the significant pressures on our local groups.

We're pleased to say we're making strides towards this objective. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and funders, we awarded a record level of funding last year to support their efforts. We're grateful to every single one of our donors for the trust and faith they put in us to direct their giving to drive change in Somerset.

In this report we share some headline results that reflect the scale and purpose of our funding.

But we never forget that behind every grant lies a story of hope and opportunity. Most importantly, we're delighted to share a small number of these stories that we hope will inspire you and remind you that community is very much alive and well here in Somerset.

In September 2022 we held a special anniversary event at The Newt, where we celebrated awarding an incredible £20 million of funding in our 20th year. We also said a fond farewell to our Chair Jane Barrie, as well as trustees Jan Ross and Sarah Wakefield who all retired from the board, and our Programmes Director, Val Bishop who left to lead another local charity. We have been pleased to welcome Angela Kerr as a new trustee, and Sean Boland and Nina Pearson to the staff team, and delighted to promote Andrew Ridgewell and Kirsty Campbell.

As we write, the cost-of-living crisis continues to impact heavily on our communities but we are buoyed by the drive and determination of our local charities and the growing engagement with local philanthropy in Somerset. While we continue to look ahead and reflect on the broader and longer-term challenges, we remain excited by the significant opportunities to grow local giving and the potential we know we can help to unlock in our communities.



Michael Samuel

MICHAEL SAMUEL MBE
CHAIR



Justin Sargent

JUSTIN SARGENT OBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Impact 2022/2023

Funds raised to support stronger Somerset communities

In our 2021–25 strategy, Thriving Somerset Communities, we set ourselves an ambitious goal of adding £3 million to our endowment to help build sustainable, long-term funding for our communities. So far, we've secured almost £1.2 million of new endowment donations – 40% of the way there. At the end of the financial year our endowment was worth £7.7 million.

It's also vital for us that we raise more flexible and unrestricted funds so we can provide more flexible, long-term and unrestricted funding for the groups we support. That's why we're creating our Collective Giving Funds: a unique and powerful way for donors to come together to drive social change in Somerset. Our aim is to provide simple, rewarding and impactful ways for everyone in Somerset to give locally – regardless of how much they want to give. You can read more about these on pages 6 & 7.

Finally, we're also delighted to have been able to make increased investment in our Philanthropy team, welcoming Fiona Foster as our new Philanthropy Manager. Fiona will help us inspire more local giving through SCF, help strengthen our own organisational sustainability, and – crucially – increase funding for our communities.

Total funds
raised in 2022/23:

£5,781,122



New funds added
to our endowment:

£320,472



I really enjoyed
visiting the funded
groups recently, it's
so eye opening to see
first hand the impact the
donations make."

Fundholder

6 new

Charitable Funds
created
for our
communities



**Over
£900,000**

raised since the launch
of our Cost-of-Living
Crisis Appeal

Our Impact 2022/2023

How we spent our funds

In the year we awarded the largest amount of funding in any 12 month period to date – £5,219,408. This included 1 grant of £1.25 million and 4 'blended' social investments worth £192,516. 526 grants were awarded to organisations, and 184 individuals received grants in the year.

Open Grants Data

We publish our grants via 360Giving, an initiative that aims to help UK funders publish their data in an open and standard format online. We believe that with better information, grant-makers can be more effective and strategic decision-makers. For more information, visit: www.threesixtygiving.org



Overall funding
awarded:

£5,219,408

Number
of grants awarded
to organisations:

526

Groups
awarded at least
one grant:

425

Largest
grant:

£1,250,000



Scan the QR code to view
an interactive map of our
funding during the year.

The typical annual income
of a funded group:

£36,000

Smallest
grant:

£121

Typical
grant size:

£2,400

Number
of grants awarded
to individuals:

184

Our Impact 2022/2023

How your support changes lives

While we recognise that people in any community can face hardship and disadvantage, we particularly aim to respond to communities that face the highest levels of deprivation or are amongst the most isolated.

- 8% of Somerset's population – or 47,000 people – live in the most deprived areas in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- This year almost 31% of our funding went to those communities.
- In addition to this, 25% of our funding went to Somerset's most rural communities.

Funded groups

A typical group that we fund is one that is 12 years old and today operates on £36,000 a year. It is run by 2.5 paid staff, most of whom are part time, and 24 volunteers. It would most likely have received £2,400 from us this year, and around £12,250 since it began.

Groups like this that receive a grant from SCF are much more likely to be based in one of Somerset's more deprived neighbourhoods.

Funded individuals

Our grants to individuals expanded significantly during the year. From our 12 grant programmes for individuals, we awarded 184 grants totalling £143,637. A typical grant to an individual is £780, and awards are mainly bursaries to widen participation and promote talent in academic, vocational, artistic and sporting endeavours. And the SWEF Enterprise Grants helped 41 young people overcome challenges to access training and development opportunities with £33,792 of funding.

“

Without the trust in our vision, and the financial support that you have provided, we would not be where we are today. Without your support, people would be needlessly going hungry in our community.”

Funded group

“

Thank you very much for offering me the grant in these difficult times. I very much appreciate it and won't forget who helped me. Once again thank you very much for your help.”

Funded individual

“

The whole process from writing and submitting an application, to communication and correspondence, has been easy, quick and stress-free.”

Funded group

“

I am a carer for a family member. The things I bought with this grant means my life is a lot easier; I can now study from home using my own laptop and it doesn't affect my carer responsibilities. This grant took a massive weight off my shoulders.”

Funded individual

“

Somerset Community Foundation are excellent and go above and beyond with any query we have ever had!”

Funded group

“

I really appreciate all your help. Times are so hard, and I really appreciate what the Foundation does to help small new businesses.”

Funded individual

The need for our work

The cost-of-living crisis pushed the poorest in our county to their limits – and beyond.

As a rural county, our communities are often even harder hit by big economic events like these. For individual households, energy bill increases are often larger because of more expensive modes of heating, such as oil-fuelled boilers. Rising fuel prices hit harder because of the need to drive further and more frequently to reach basic services and the lack of public transport. And those already living in 'food deserts', reliant upon more expensive food from local convenience stores, are finding it harder than ever to make ends meet.

Small, local charities and community groups in Somerset have had a gruelling year themselves, faced with fewer donations, increased costs and soaring need. And simply by virtue of being small, many lack the time and expertise to raise the funds they need.

And that's why our work – and the support of so many generous donors and partners – is so vital. We know that every penny donated through SCF to incredible, life-changing and life-saving local charities means so much.

It means families can get urgent help to find housing when they find themselves in crisis. It means young people who have faced unimaginable challenges at home can get counselling and support to rebuild their lives. It means older people can find new hobbies – and friends – when they feel weighed down by loneliness.

Community means different things to different people. The one thing we often share is a love of where we live and a dream to make it better. And that's the work your donations to SCF fund every day – helping Somerset communities to drive change and realise their dreams.



Below:
The Old Stores
Studio in
Evercreech run
low cost and
free creative
groups,
courses,
workshops
and events.

Above: Andy Ridgewell in conversation with (L-R) Paula Blight, SWEDA; Maggie Charlesworth, The Lawrence Centre; and Sharon Hale, Shepton Mallet Town Council.

Left: Members of the HPC Community Fund panel meet the Somerset Sight team at their mobile advisory service for sight impairment.





Above:
SCF donors enjoy a talk and tour at Charlie Bigham's Kitchen at Dulcote Quarry near Wells.

Right:
Karina Quayle, Head of HR (pictured left) and Richard Hunt, Chairman (right) at Hunt's Food Group, recently visited Marie Rice, Centre Manager (pictured centre) at Westfield Community Centre in Yeovil.



Ways to give

We give local donors opportunities to make a real and lasting change in their communities.

Through our unrivalled breadth and depth of local knowledge we direct their generous gifts to the causes and places that need it most. Our team of charity experts will guide you to the best solution for you from a variety of rewarding ways to give. Our Charitable Funds offer a simple alternative to a charitable trust, or our Collective Giving Funds offer donors the chance to give with others in support of a cause they care about.

Charitable Funds: A simple and impactful alternative to a charitable trust

Whether you're an individual or a business, building your own Charitable Fund gives you access to our expert philanthropic advice to create a strategy for your giving. Together, we'll build a bespoke Fund that aligns with your values and the causes and places you care about.

With a **Forever Fund**, your donations are invested and the income is used to provide sustainable funding for our communities today and for generations to come.

Or with an **Immediate Impact Fund**, we'll invest your funds into our communities straight away and you can either top up your fund when it runs out, or make regular donations that align with your giving strategy.

Whichever Fund you choose, we provide expert philanthropic advice to make local giving easy, rewarding and impactful. Through our unrivalled breadth and depth of local knowledge, we direct your generous gifts so they drive change in our communities. We'll take care of all the administration, carry out careful due diligence, and share inspiring opportunities to see the difference you've made.

Working together to support good causes



We're delighted to have established the Hunt's Food Group Community Fund in partnership with Somerset Community Foundation. We're so pleased to be able to provide long-term, strategic funding for vital local charities who work tirelessly to change lives where we live and work. We're very proud to have recently gained our B-Corp accreditation and the Fund is part of our commitment to using our resources to benefit our wider communities, not just our shareholders."

**Richard Hunt, Chairman,
Hunt's Food Group**



Right:
Somerset African
Caribbean Network
received funding from
The Somerset Fund
in the year. SACN
committee members:
Susann Savidge (left),
Maria German and
Jean Harper (right).



Collective Giving Funds: Give with others to drive change together

Our Collective Giving Funds are a unique and powerful way for donors to come together to drive social change in Somerset.

By donating to a **Collective Giving Fund**, you can join with others to make a bigger impact to a cause you care about. We have 5 themed Collective Giving Funds:

- Older People
- Youth
- Wellbeing
- Environment
- The Arts.

These Funds are guided by research and listening to our communities and charities so we can provide funding that helps them tackle the most pressing challenges in Somerset and build stronger communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

The Somerset Forever Fund is a wonderful way to join with others to make a lasting impact in Somerset for generations to come. Donations to The Somerset Forever Fund are invested and provide us with flexible, sustainable income to direct funds where the need is greatest or respond to crises like those we have seen in recent years.

The Somerset Fund brings donors together in support of small, grassroots groups that create the spaces, places and activities that keep our communities strong and connected. Your gift will be used to make an immediate impact by supporting a wide range of causes, from youth clubs to community shops, and from groups for older people to inclusive local sports teams. All donations are matched by 50% by Somerset Council, meaning every pound you give makes a bigger impact. Since 2019, The Somerset Fund has awarded over £350,000 of funding thanks to the collective generosity of our donors.

Gifts 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. You can name Somerset Community Foundation as a beneficiary in your Will to allow us to use funds flexibly, support one of our Collective Giving Funds, or set up a bespoke Charitable Fund to support the causes or places you care 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%.



I am passionate about building stronger and more sustainable communities in Somerset, having lived in the county for most of my life. I wanted to leave a legacy to help with this mission and could think of no better place to leave my gift than to Somerset Community Foundation to direct it to small charities within Somerset. I wanted to rely on SCF's knowledge and expertise to direct my gift so it makes the most impact possible over the years."

SCF Legacy pledger

£100,000

Total given out to young people this year to help them continue their education, take part in training, or start a business.



Above:
In the Mix Youth Project, based in Wiveliscombe, delivers professional youth work to support young people and families in need at their Hub, alongside outdoor provisions such as camping trips, adventure park fun days or beach litter picking.



Helping young people build a brighter future

Sarah* was 19 years old and working in a care home for people living with dementia. Being a carer inspired her. She decided to return to education and enrol for a nursing degree. But unlike most young people, Sarah couldn't rely on the support of her family while she was studying.

“

I'm a Care Leaver, which means I don't have the traditional support of a family like most other young people. The bursary will help me to expand my social network and make meaningful connections with others which will sustain me through my course and give me some fun downtime and friendships.

I am quite shy but want to make friends and have the ability and money to try new things whilst I am at university. It will be important to have interests and friends to sustain me when things feel overwhelming and stressful.”

Sarah had been a looked-after child for most of her life. This meant growing up with a foster family. Care leavers who go to university get some financial support from the council. But without parental support to fall back on in tough times, Sarah is statistically more likely to drop out of university.

We awarded Sarah £4,500 this year to help relieve financial pressures so she can focus on her studies and enjoy her time at university. In total, we gave out £100,000 to young people this year to help them continue their education, take part in training, or start a business.

Alongside this, we continued to award grants to many groups to help young people build a brighter future. This includes mental health services from groups such as In Charley's Memory and The Space, which you can read more about on the next page. We also supported the development of the Somerset Youth Work Alliance which is training and supporting the next generation of youth workers for our county.

* To protect the privacy of the individual, the student's name has been changed



The Space preserves and protects the mental health of children and young people who are either living or educated in the Cheddar Valley area. **Doreen Smith**, Operations Director tells us more.

“

The counselling made me feel heard. They were on my side.

”

Case Study: The Space

“

It can be very difficult for children and young people to get mental health support in the Cheddar Valley area. We're bringing something into a place where traditionally it's been very hard to get services. Our services are all accessible, local, confidential and offered at no cost. We offer counselling, youth activities, play therapy and work closely with schools on mental health.

The Space started with our boss getting involved with the local patient participation group and finding out what was needed in the area. Concern about children and young people's mental health came top. People were very aware of suicide and self-harm happening locally. They understood

there was a tsunami of mental health challenges for local young people that were just not going away on their own.

In total we have supported around 500 young people to date. Sadly, right now we've got around 40 on our waiting list – and we've never really had a waiting list before. I think that, talking to parents and children, the face-to-face aspect is very important. People are sometimes frustrated with virtual services: they just want to talk with someone in the flesh.

We value the funding that we've had from Somerset Community Foundation very much. It's helped us use nationally recognised tools to prove our impact, which is incredibly important. Collecting data enables us to go into schools and say: 'these are the top three things young people are coming to us for' – whether that's depression, anxiety or something else. That's so important to what we do."



We spoke with Isobel (left), who told us how she benefitted from counselling at The Space.

“

I quite enjoyed lockdown because I was home and felt safe. But going back to reality afterwards was difficult. I was in a dark place and really scaring myself. My school chaplain saw me struggling and mentioned The Space to me. The counselling made me feel heard. They were on my side. They would sit and listen and tell me that it was OK, that my feelings were valid. I'm now in a place where I'm very positive and have some strong coping mechanisms. The experience has made me want to work in young people's mental health myself."



Left:
Taking part in
the Grow Your
Own Veg Plot
workshop at
a community
garden.

**Making sure healthier food
is available for everyone has
become incredibly difficult
during the cost-of-living crisis.**

Right:
Feed Avalon
hosted a seed
saving class
delivered
by Plotgate
Community
Farm.



Improving health and wellbeing

We all know that eating a healthy, balanced diet is important for our wellbeing. But making sure healthier food is available for everyone has become incredibly difficult during the cost-of-living crisis, with food inflation at more than 20%, pushing the cost of an average shopping basket through the roof.

While foodbanks can't solve inflation, they remain a crucial safety net. So, while we continued to fund foodbanks during the year, we also worked together with Somerset Council to invest in more sustainable solutions by creating a fund to support communities to grow and cook more of their own food.

This included giving £10,000 to a new group called Wellington Community Food. With this money, they're creating an 18-acre community farm. This will allow them to pilot a volunteer-supported model supplying affordable fruit and vegetables to the local community and schools, and upskilling the community in how to grow their own. We were also able to support Feed Avalon in Glastonbury. They ran courses on how to cook on a budget, preserve foods, and swap seeds. In total, we gave out over £80,000 for projects like this.

The ways we support local people's health and wellbeing extend far beyond food. Funding for Somerset Arts Well helped the Wells-based group deliver Singing for the Brain, a weekly music session for people living with dementia and memory problems, and their carers. We also funded places like the Carymoor Environmental Trust, in Castle Cary, to manage their therapeutic green spaces to engage disadvantaged groups in nature-themed activities.

Our funding is also designed to benefit people facing a particular health and wellbeing challenge, including organisations that support people with acquired brain injuries, such as Headway on the next page, and people with cancer or people in need of end of life care.

Liz Simmons, CEO at Headway Somerset, explains how we helped secure services and scale up ambitions.



“We give people the opportunity to live their lives to the maximum.”



Case Study: Headway Somerset

“

We work with people with acquired brain injuries in Somerset. People sustain their injuries in different ways, including in an accident, from a fall, or an assault, from an infection like meningitis, a tumour or lack of oxygen. Basically, we're trying to give clients lifelong support for whatever they need, for as long as they need it. It's giving them the opportunity to have the life they want to lead and live that life to the maximum.

Each person is affected to different degrees. There's the physical disabilities and sensory loss – but also cognitive issues as well. Depending on the part of their brain that's injured people might have issues around managing their emotions or processing information. These are hidden disabilities that can really impact people's daily lives. All too often they can get labelled as 'awkward' or 'difficult'.

We employ hospital liaison workers who talk to people and their families to support them through the early days, weeks and months of hospital. Sometimes it's about giving them information or a listening ear. Or it can be more complex, like helping children understand what's happened to their mum, dad or sibling.

Our rehabilitation service starts with assessment, then we work on developing strategies, helping people manage their household or re-connect with their community. Our Making Headway volunteer project gives

people an opportunity to connect socially, try out new interests and build new networks of support.

Growing in confidence and resilience

“Grant funding from Somerset Community Foundation has been incredibly important to us. We've had a tough year with fundraising because of the cost-of-living crisis. First of all, the funding helped us do practical things like pay rents and make sure we could continue to run our services.

What it also enabled us to do was have space to reflect on what we learned from the pandemic. Out of that we developed a three-year plan with ways to grow further and meet more of the needs of our people.

It's incredible to hear how those we work with go on a journey with us. People develop not just confidence, but resilience too. They also gain acceptance: this is my life and this is what I'm going to do next.”

Below:
Acrobatics
were just one
of the activities
at Minehead
Bay Festival,
organised by
Minehead
EYE.



Below:
Our largest
ever grant of
£1.25 million
was awarded to
Bridgwater Guy
Fawkes Carnival.
Photo credit:
Peter J Nicholls
Photography



Above: A grant from
Somerset Community
Foundation, in July 2022,
went towards organising
the first parade at
Taunton Pride.



Supporting strong, connected communities

Creating spaces and places for whole communities to come together is a big part of what we do with our grant funding. These spaces are often the beating heart of our communities, where people come together. They help build connections, friendships and memories that anchor people to the place they live. They help people to feel like they belong.

The Somerset Fund supports many of these amazing places and spaces, like West Brompton Village Shop, which you can read more about on the next page.

But our efforts to support strong, connected communities are wide ranging. They include our largest ever grant of £1.25 million to Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival. This was made possible thanks to our Hinkley Point C Community Fund. Our grant will help to create a new 'home of carnival' in Bridgwater and it unlocked a further £3 million of funding from other sources. The thousands of people involved in the carnival are not just spectators: they are actively involved in building carts, raising funds, and providing training and skills development. In doing so, they are building and sustaining their community throughout the year.

In addition to the many village halls, community centres, and playing fields we've been proud to support, we supported our county's biggest LGBTQ+ Pride event in Taunton. And in Axbridge, we supported the only remaining historical pageant in England, which takes place every ten years.

All these places, spaces and events breathe life into our communities, bringing people together who might not otherwise meet, building strong communities that make Somerset a special place to live.

“

In a seemingly increasingly divided society, we need things that bring more of us together, more often. My hope and belief is that by helping the Bridgwater Carnival secure its future, it will play an ever more important role in building bridges across all the diverse cultures of Somerset.”

Justin Sargent, Chief Executive,
Somerset Community Foundation

“

A village needs a shop and a pub; they are the heart of a village community.

”

“

We employ a wonderful shop manager, and she's supported by a team of amazing volunteers.

”



The shop manager and volunteers, who help create a warm and welcoming retail and meeting space for the local community.

Photo credit:
Dale Cherry
Photography



Case Study: Brompton Regis Village Shop

Christine Cherry (pictured above), Chair of the Brompton Regis Village Shop Management Committee, told us how a grant from The Somerset Fund allowed them to grow what they offer to this very remote rural community.

“

Brompton Regis is a small community in a remote part of Exmoor. The nearest town is 4 miles away, but there isn't a bus route. When the village post office closed down, the local community rallied

together and raised the funds to set up the village shop.

A large number of the population here are elderly and don't drive, so the shop is a lifeline to them. For some customers we're the only people they see that day. We have a prescription delivery twice a week, and we also act as a foodbank collection point and parish magazine distributor.

Our regular customers are creatures of habit. If someone usually comes in every morning for a paper and we haven't seen them by lunchtime, we'll give them a call or pop round to check they're OK. We'll happily go the extra mile, offering a bespoke service to many customers, such as telephone or email orders. And we'll deliver to their door or arrange out of hours collection, too.

Most of our grant covered the costs of creating a warm and welcoming retail and meeting space. Bringing our outside tables and chairs inside during the winter months meant

people could continue to meet and have a hot drink and a chat. We bought a microwave to heat up pasties, soup and other snacks – especially during the busy lambing season. The remainder of the grant was put towards our electricity bill which for the six months to February went up to an eye-watering £1,649.25.

We aren't here to make huge profits and we keep our prices competitive. So when a freezer goes or the bills increase – both of which happened last year – we rely on grants to help us through. Being able to access funding for core costs gives us that boost when we really need it.

The Somerset Fund grant has helped keep a vital community facility alive. Thank you – you're keeping a lifeline to the community going.”

Below:
Wells Dementia Action
Alliance and the Lawrence
Centre shared a stand
at the Wells leg of the
Somerset Dementia
Roadshow.

**Our Festive Fund small grants
help local groups come
together for a community
Christmas meal, reducing
loneliness and spreading
warmth and cheer
through food, fun
and friendship
around the
festive period.**



Supporting older people in our communities

Somerset has an ageing population. The 2021 Census shows us that 134,000 people, 30,000 more than in 2011, are now of retirement age. This means that it's more important than ever that we keep supporting groups that help vulnerable older people now, and help make sure they can be there to support more older people in the years to come.

Among many grants to support older people in our communities this year were three for Dementia Action Alliance groups. These groups, in Langport, Minehead and Wells, are all very different. But a common thread that runs through them all is making sure their local community is dementia-friendly – that people with dementia feel understood, supported and respected.

Our long-running, award-winning Surviving Winter appeal helps many older people across our county, this year supporting 819 older people experiencing fuel poverty. Thanks to

the generous support of our many loyal donors, this year we were able to use some of our Surviving Winter funds to pilot a new initiative to help poorer older people reduce their bills.

Through this scheme, we awarded £100,000 to Burnham & Weston Energy, which will lead a group of local charities to do two things. Firstly, they will provide advice to help households navigate the energy market, understand their bills, use their heating systems more efficiently, and access financial support. Secondly, they will offer practical support to help households make their homes more energy efficient. Alongside our Surviving Winter appeal we continued to run our Festive Fund, offering small grants to help local groups come together for a community Christmas meal, reducing loneliness and spreading warmth and cheer through food, fun and friendship around the festive period.



The 2022/23 Surviving Winter appeal raised an incredible £160,000, thanks to the generosity of local donors. And this year, to help reduce the financial stress of the cost-of-living crisis, we increased the maximum grant size to £500, which meant the average grant increased from £200 to £270.

Our Surviving Winter partners across the county help our older, vulnerable neighbours to access support, help and guidance to make sure they're warm, safe and well through the winter months.



Surviving Winter

No one should have to choose between heating and eating

Every year we speak to people for whom your generous donations have made a real difference.

Alf is 77 and was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease last year.

“Due to the effects of the disease I've had to give up everything I used to do. I used to make musical instruments. It was a hobby that kept me busy but also helped us pay the bills – but it's impossible now.

We have oil heating in our home. You can't just top up a little at a time: the minimum is half a tank, which at the moment costs about £500.* The price is going up all the time; it's such a worry. It's a huge amount of money to pay out in one go. Last winter the oil got very low and we suddenly found ourselves in a position where we just didn't have the money to buy any more.

We didn't know who to turn to for help. Luckily, a neighbour told us about the Village Agents and that's how we got our Surviving Winter grant. The money went straight towards paying for oil, saving us from having no heating or hot water. They also connected us to Citizens Advice, who helped us fill in forms and made sure we're getting all the benefits we qualify for.

I really don't want to be in the same position again this winter, but with the cost of oil we'll just have to see. We were very thankful for the Surviving Winter grant last year. I don't know how other people cope – I could never have done it without this help.”

* Correct at the time (summer 2022)



Mike Davis, Trustee and Liz Hurry, Chair with their newly installed heating system at Wivey Pool, Somerset's only community-owned and run swimming pool in Wiveliscombe



Simon, who is now a vital part of the Crescent Cleaning Team: "Arc saved my life. Crescent Cleaning Services put my life back together."

Supporting Somerset's social enterprises



We've created a workplace where our employees' past experiences or struggles with mental health are not judged and are not a barrier, and can be openly talked about. And even better for us: we've found incredibly loyal, dedicated and hard-working employees!"

Jordan Canter,
Social Enterprise Development
Manager, Arc Taunton

The Somerset Social Enterprise Fund offers blended social investments to VCSEs across Somerset. Over the past year, 4 organisations have benefitted from receiving blended loan and grant awards worth £192,450: Arc Taunton/ Crescent Cleaning, Stand Against Violence, Taunton East Development Trust and Wivey Pool.

These investments are aimed at helping organisations grow their own sustainability with a focus on income generation models, alongside the all-important social impact that these organisations have in their communities. In addition, we completed Somerset's first Match Trading programme which supported social enterprises and social entrepreneurs with almost £300,000 of funding over two years.

Seven-and-a-half years after our first social investment, just over £1.2 million was awarded through 28 social investments.

Crescent Cleaning Services

In December 2022, Arc, a Taunton-based organisation that supports homeless people in Somerset, were awarded a £33,334 loan and £16,666 grant as working capital to help grow their Crescent Cleaning Services (CCS). Arc created CCS to provide a supportive route back into employment for those who would struggle to find employment otherwise.

The cleaning company recruits those who have experienced homelessness and have been supported through Arc – as well as bringing in income for the organisation.

We'd like to thank our partners – **Somerset Council, The Growth Fund*** and the **School for Social Entrepreneurs**, alongside all the fantastic social entrepreneurs for their brilliant work in our communities.

Organisation	Project description	Loan	Grant	Total
Arc Taunton/Crescent Cleaning	Working capital to help grow Arc's Crescent Cleaning Services	£33,334	£16,666	£50,000
Stand Against Violence	Working capital to develop a Business Training Service and online training platform to produce a sustainable income stream	£20,000	£10,000	£30,000
Taunton East Development Trust	Refurbishment costs and working capital requirement to establish a community shop on the Halcon estate	£35,000	£17,500	£52,500
Wivey Pool	Replacing an outdated heating system to make the pool more efficient and reduce annual utility costs	£40,000	£20,000	£60,000

*The Growth Fund is a partnership between **The National Lottery Community Fund** and **Big Society Capital**, delivered by **Access** through a range of social investors including Somerset Community Foundation. It makes up to £50m available to support charities and social enterprises to grow and create social impact in their communities. The Growth Fund uses a combination of grant funding, made possible thanks to National Lottery players, and loan finance from Big Society Capital and other co-investors to address specific gaps in the social investment market.

Somerset Cost-of- Living Crisis Appeal

The Cost-of-Living Crisis took hold in 2022, pushing many people who were already struggling to make ends meet into desperate situations. Inflation hit a 40-year high and the cost of household essentials like food, energy and fuel rocketed.

Living in a rural county means that basic costs like fuel are already higher due to the distance from work, school or essential services. Many of our neighbours also rely on more expensive modes of heating for their homes such as oil-fuelled boilers, where costs have also grown significantly in the last year.

Local charities themselves are battling to survive in the face increased costs

to carry out their work, soaring demand and fewer donations from the public.

We launched our Somerset Cost-of-Living Crisis Appeal in August 2022. Thanks to the generosity of local people and funding partners, we raised £900,000 to help local people and the charities who support them through these incredibly tough times.

We used the funds raised to provide three key strands of support:

Cost-of-Living Grants: Almost £500,000 of our funding was used to make grants of up to £10,000 to support groups to meet increased demand, offset the impact of inflation on their organisation, or subsidise community activities to ensure access for all in times of financial hardship.

Somerset Move-In Fund: We re-opened our Move-In Fund, which originally ran for 2 years from 2019. The Fund, run in partnership with local homelessness charities, provides grants of up to £2,000 for individuals who have been offered housing but

can't afford to furnish or carpet their homes. One of Arc's beneficiaries in 2020, Guy, said of the Fund: "The money has definitely helped me settle into my new property with less to worry about, it really has made a massive difference to me."

Helping community buildings become more sustainable: Village halls and community centres have also suffered from soaring energy costs. We're working together with Community Council for Somerset to pilot a scheme offering energy audits at 17 village halls and community centres across Somerset to help them reduce their bills and become more sustainable so they can continue to offer free and affordable activities for their communities.

Each community building will be provided with a prioritised programme of energy efficiency measures, and we will then work with each community to explore what funding options are available to help them implement changes.



Somerset

Cost-of-Living Crisis Appeal



We're thankful to the following organisations for their generous support of our Somerset Cost-of-Living Crisis Appeal, and to the many individual donors who gave so generously to support local people in need.

- Somerset Council
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
- Fairfield Trust
- Magnox
- McGreevy Charitable Trust
- M&G Plc
- The Barratt Development Foundation
- The British Red Cross
- South Somerset District Council
- Sedgemoor District Council
- Somerset West and Taunton District Council

Energy bills
increased by
over 50%
in April 2022



Foundation grants made to organisations during 2022/23

Improved community cohesion

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Age UK Somerset (2 grants)	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter, and supporting people with dementia	36,060	Older people
Best Before Food Store (3 grants)	Providing support for low income families, and low cost food for people in financial hardship in Wellington	9,270	People living in poverty/disadvantage
BOS Events	Contribution towards the setup costs of an annual bloom festival in Burnham-on-Sea	5,000	Local residents
Bridgwater Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club	Running costs of a Veterans Breakfast Club in Bridgwater	2,965	People who are serving/have served in the Armed Forces and/or their families
Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival	Creating a carnival park to house one of Somerset's largest cultural events	1,250,000	Local residents
Bridgwater Pubwatch	Improving safety of vulnerable people in the Bridgwater night-time economy	5,000	Local residents
Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust (4 grants)	Contribution to community amateur sports club	11,153	Children and young people
Burnham Book Festival	Contribution towards the Burnham Book Festival 2023	3,000	Local residents
Calvert Trust Exmoor	Bursary support for adults with learning difficulties from Somerset	3,333	People living with mental health problems
Centre for Sustainable Energy	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	10,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
CHARIS (2 grants)	Hub in Wells supporting Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers	6,800	Refugees/asylum seekers/vulnerable migrants
Chilton Trinity Village Hall	A contribution towards upgrading village hall audio facilities	2,746	People living in rural areas
Churchinford Cricket Club	Essential maintenance and equipment for a rural sports club	4,000	Children and young people
Churchstanton Public Open Space Management Group (2 grants)	Developing and maintaining a community green space	4,500	Local residents
Citizens Advice Sedgemoor	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	4,125	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Citizens Advice South Somerset (3 grants)	Advice services and direct financial support to vulnerable households	45,975	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Citizens Advice Taunton	Increasing the capacity of debt and money advice services	10,000	People living with mental health problems
Citizens Advice West Somerset (2 grants)	Improving access and increasing the capacity of debt and money advice services	15,000	People living with mental health problems
Community Council for Somerset (2 grants)	Somerset Diverse Communities and providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	53,150	People from a particular minority ethnic or racial origin
Create Together	Creative activities in nature, in Weston-super-Mare	2,500	People living with mental health problems
Crispin Hall Trust (4 grants)	Providing a warm space, meals and activities at a community hub in Street	13,400	Older people
Dunster Festival (2 grants)	Music workshops in rural isolated community schools and care homes	4,000	Children and young people
East Harptree VC Primary School	East Harptree primary school visits to community farm	2,000	Children and young people
Edventure Frome (2 grants)	Advocacy group staff meetings and a project for unemployed young adults	11,309	Children and young people
Escapeline (4 grants)	Support for a charity addressing county lines gangs across Somerset	45,533	Children and young people
For All Healthy Living Company	Food clubs, community fridge and repair café in Weston-super-Mare	7,000	Local residents
Forum 21	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	14,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Friends of Grove Park	Community outreach and volunteer coordination in Weston-super-Mare	2,000	People living with mental health problems
Friends of North Petherton Library	Replacement mobile bookshelves to create a modular community space	3,000	Local residents
Friends of Prince Consort Gardens	Wildlife habitat creation at a green space in Weston-super-Mare	2,380	Local residents
Frome Community Education CIC	IT skills for those who are disadvantaged and minority ethnic groups	3,520	Local residents

Improved community cohesion continued

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Frome Medical Practice CIC	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	26,500	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Frome Town Band	Brass band offering free accessible events over the Jubilee events	2,658	Children and young people
Good Fellowship Club (2 grants)	Christmas afternoon tea and transport costs for older disabled people in Yeovil	3,300	Older people
Home-Start West Somerset (2 grants)	Community meal and support for families with young people in Minehead	6,529	Children and young people
Live Naturally (3 grants)	Support to improve wellbeing for families in Sedgemoor through nutrition	170,000	People living with mental health problems
LiveWest Homes	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	3,750	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Love Yeovil	Running an event to build community cohesion	2,500	Children and young people
Magdalen Environmental Trust (3 grants)	Running a residential for Ukrainian refugee families and delivering forest school and activities in Bridgwater	54,530	Children and young people
MASA Men Against Sexual Abuse	Counselling support for men in Bridgwater who have experienced sexual abuse	5,000	Victims or survivors of crime/violence/abuse
MHA Communities South Somerset & Mendip District	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	5,500	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Minehead EYE CIC (3 grants)	Business development and youth work services	17,250	Children and young people
Minehead Museum (2 grants)	Contribution towards a new building for Minehead Museum	26,020	Local residents
Nightingales	Supporting Ukrainian refugees and community integration in Chard	3,000	Refugees/asylum seekers/vulnerable migrants
North Taunton Partnership (5 grants)	Support for a community hub, including holiday activities and drug awareness sessions	11,000	Local residents
Oake & District Community Shop Ltd	Construction of a path with lighting connecting the village shop, hall and car park	2,000	Local residents
Oake and District Village Hall and Recreation Ground (2 grants)	Installation of a hearing loop in a community building	2,220	Older people
On Your Bike	Bike maintenance courses for adults with complex needs in Bridgwater and Taunton	106,150	People living with mental health problems
Otterhampton Primary School	A contribution towards an accessible path for Otterhampton Primary School	17,487	Children and young people
Parochial Church Council for Stockland & Steart Peninsula	Contribution towards the development of a community hub in Stockland Bristol	8,084	People living in rural areas
PCC St Mary Woolavington	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community hub	3,500	Older people
Petherton Arts Trust (2 grants)	Improving the financial sustainability of the David Hall rural arts centre	2,904	Local residents
PROMISEworks (3 grants)	Supporting a mentoring service for disadvantaged children across Somerset	22,000	Children and young people
Rare Species Theatre	Accessible dance sessions for adults with learning disabilities and autism across Mendip	9,944	People living with learning disabilities
Refugee Aid from Taunton (RAFT)	Relocating services for refugee families	5,000	Refugees/asylum seekers/vulnerable migrants
Root Connections	Accredited horticultural training for people who have been homeless in rural Mendip	5,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Sheba Soul Ensemble	Running arts workshops to increase wellbeing, confidence and help young people use their voice	41,500	Children and young people
Shepton Beauchamp Cowleaze Meadow Project (2 grants)	Electric lawnmower for a community green space	2,500	People living in rural areas
Shepton Mallet Baptist Church (2 grants)	Contribution towards a community building and installing a hearing loop	2,600	Older people
Social Circles	Garden maintenance support for older people and people with disabilities in Bridgwater	4,024	Older people
Somerset African Caribbean Network (2 grants)	Raising awareness of the contribution that the Windrush Generation made to Britain	2,621	People from a particular minority ethnic or racial origin
Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (2 grants)	Support for women with learning difficulties and/or autism who have experienced sexual violence, and workshops at secondary schools	75,800	Children and young people
Somerset Bat Group	Equipment costs for the Somerset Big Bat Count in Sedgemoor and west Somerset	2,480	People living with mental health problems
Somerset Child Contact Centres (2 grants)	Supporting the core running costs of Somerset's 5 child contact centres	8,000	Children and young people
Somerset Cricket Foundation	Developing an inclusive programme for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism	100,800	Local residents

Improved community cohesion continued

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Somerset Football Association	Re-establishing football sessions for adults with learning disabilities and autism	65,000	People living with learning disabilities
South Chard Church	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community hub	6,000	Children and young people
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport (2 grants)	Contribution towards the overheads and maintaining a fleet of vehicles for a community transport service	7,350	Older people
SSAFA Somerset	Providing financial support to help older people stay warm over the winter	11,000	People who are serving/have served in the Armed Forces and/or their families
St Francis of Assisi Church, Bridgwater	Running a holiday club for low income families in Bridgwater	5,000	Local residents
St George's Wembdon, Parish Centre	Main hall upgrade and installation of counselling rooms	15,000	People living with mental health problems
St Peter & All Hallows Church, West Huntspill (2 grants)	Circular walks around the community and the creation of a community hub	22,500	Local residents
St Peter's Church, Yeovil	Establishing a new youth work service in the Westfield area	3,000	Children and young people
Stacked Wonky (3 grants)	Delivering arts activities and performance workshops and projects for young people	18,733	Children and young people
Stand Against Violence (4 grants)	Delivering violence prevention workshops at schools and youth clubs across Somerset	21,800	Children and young people
Start Running Stay Running	Running event in Bridgwater to encourage healthier lifestyles	3,000	Local residents
Taunton East Development Trust (4 grants)	Contributing to the running costs of a community centre and developing a new community shop	27,900	Children and young people
Taunton Pride	Bringing Somerset's LGBTQIA+ community together for Taunton Pride	2,500	People who self-identify as LGBTQ+
Taunton Welcomes Refugees	English sessions to help integrate refugees in Taunton	3,000	Refugees/asylum seekers/vulnerable migrants
The Balsam Centre (2 grants)	Supporting the growth and development of the Well Wessex group of charities	15,580	People living with mental health problems
The Bluebirds Theatre Company	Business developing and contributing towards production costs of a community theatre group	12,500	Children and young people
The Hub at Bridgwater	Supporting people affected by the cost-of-living crisis	5,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
The Nelson Trust (7 grants)	Supporting the Bridgwater Women's Centre to deliver support services to vulnerable women	177,154	Women and/or girls
The Nornen Project CIC (2 grants)	An accessible community theatre performance in Berrow commemorating local history	5,000	Local residents
The Pod Youth Club	Supporting social activities for adults with learning disabilities in Frome	12,500	Children and young people
The Somerscience Trust	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) festival for young people in South Somerset	5,000	Children and young people
The Women's Community Forum (3 grants)	Running poetry workshops and projects in schools in Sedgemoor and providing support to women from the BAME community	14,400	Women and/or girls
Theatre Orchard	Summer schools for young people to develop artistic responses to the climate and sustainability	5,000	Children and young people
Wembdon Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust (4 grants)	Building renovations and running open access youth work sessions to combat antisocial behaviour	35,968	Children and young people
Weston College	Beach Clean, Walk and Talk events to connect local people with their natural environment	2,500	Children and young people
Weston-super-Mare Chamber of Commerce	Community events connected to SEE MONSTER, part of the Unboxed Festival	7,650	Local residents
Wincanton Town Festival	Contributing to overall running costs of the event	2,500	Older people
Wiveliscombe Community Swimming Pool Club	Investing in new equipment at a community swimming pool in order to improve sustainability	20,000	People living in rural areas
Yeovil Community Church	Contribution towards the overheads of a community hub	7,000	People living with mental health problems
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (2 grants)	Creating more inclusive spaces for adults with learning disabilities and autism and increasing habitat diversity	10,500	People living with learning disabilities
Yeovil Street Pastors	Alcohol and drug support for young adults	5,000	Children and young people
YMCA Taunton (2 grants)	Outdoor canopy to provide shelter for visitors and contribution towards the overheads of a youth service	6,546	Children and young people
Young Musical Theatre Company (YMT)	Equipment for a Bridgwater-based community theatre group	5,000	Children and young people
Youth Unlimited	Nature and wildlife clubs for young people in Highbridge	2,500	Children and young people

Improved mental health and wellbeing

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Actiontrack	Creative sessions for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Taunton	4,800	Children and young people
Active and In Touch (2 grants)	Reducing isolation and loneliness among adults in Frome and the surrounding area	8,000	Older people
aKa Dance Theatre Company	Tour that takes performance art to rural communities	2,500	Children and young people
Albermarle Centre	Creating a 'public living room' to combat isolation and loneliness in Taunton	3,500	People living with mental health problems
Arts Taunton	A production created by young people for the Taunton Youth Culture and Arts Festival	3,000	Children and young people
Autism Somerset – Autism Community Network CIC	Supporting young people to overcome anxiety in Sedgemoor	5,000	People living with learning disabilities
Axe Valley Men's Shed (3 grants)	A community mental health project and strengthening social connections among isolated older people in Cheddar.	9,600	Older people
Bicknoller Village Hall	Purchasing modern catering equipment for a new community kitchen	2,500	Older people
Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club (2 grants)	Drop-in advocacy session support for Deaf people and reducing isolation for the D/deaf and hearing impaired community	25,000	People living with physical or sensory disabilities
Carymoor Environmental Trust (4 grants)	Developing a community green space near Castle Cary, including access and volunteering	24,750	People living with mental health problems
Chard WATCH (2 grants)	Business development volunteer training to support adults with mental health problems	10,300	People living with mental health problems
Connect Community Church (3 grants)	Providing a warm space, activity for isolated older people and contributing towards the overheads of a community hub in Wells	10,066	People living with mental health problems
Conquest Centre (2 grants)	Providing equine assisted counselling to parents of children with additional needs	70,947	Children and young people
Crewkerne Wellbeing (2 grants)	Music sessions for over 13s and contributing towards increased overheads	4,600	Children and young people
Cultivating Community (2 grants)	Weekly therapeutic gardening sessions and other workshops and activities for children and adults in Mendip	7,600	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Diversity Voice (2 grants)	Theatre performances of Ukrainian refugees' experiences of the war and providing a debt management course for refugees	8,000	Refugees/asylum seekers/vulnerable migrants
EAQ Manor Farm CIC	Contribution towards an equine-assisted learning centre near Ilminster	4,900	Children and young people
Escape Support Group	Activities for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities	9,000	People living with physical or sensory disabilities
Feed Avalon (2 grants)	Running cooking, foraging and preserving courses for people in Glastonbury	5,340	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Frome Birth Talk	Recruiting volunteers to assist families during the perinatal period	3,000	People living with mental health problems
Golden Oldies	Singing and socialisation sessions for older people	3,000	Older people
Growing Space	Supporting adults with mental health problems to grow fresh produce for Wincanton's food bank	4,500	People living with mental health problems
Home-Start Blackmore Vale (previously Home-Start North Dorset)	Setting up a new Home-Start Service to provide vital practical and emotional support	3,000	Children and young people
In Charley's Memory (3 grants)	Subsidised counselling services for young people in Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge and continuing professional development	13,525	People living with mental health problems
Living Paintings	Providing 'Touch to See' books to blind and partially sighted children in Somerset	2,000	Children and young people
Love Community CIC	Contribution towards the overheads of a service for adults with learning disabilities in Bridgwater	3,167	People living with mental health problems
Making Space Wells	Establishing craft courses for those who are isolated in Wells	3,000	Local residents
MC Inspired Together (3 grants)	Community activities for the Bulgarian community and running costs for a support group in Bridgwater	5,400	Children and young people
Mind Your Music	Continue to improve the lives and provision for people with moderate to severe mental illness	5,000	People living with mental health problems
OpenStoryTellers (4 grants)	Contribution to a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities in Frome	20,698	People living with physical or sensory disabilities
PACE (Personal Achievements Creative Experiences) – (3 grants)	Strengthening social connections, and activities for people with disabilities in Frome	3,200	People living with physical or sensory disabilities
Parrett Community Shed	Rent costs for a community shed project for isolated rural people in the Langport area	2,400	Older people
Playground mums on behalf of Withycombe parish council	Children's playground in isolated rural community	2,500	Children and young people

Improved mental health and wellbeing continued

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Purple Elephant Family Support (2 grants)	Supporting a befriending service for children and Family Support Group in the Frome area	6,940	Children and young people
Reminiscence Learning (3 grants)	Contribution towards the overheads, project in primary school to address the stigma that surrounds dementia and a community meal	7,400	Older people
Rusty Road to Recovery (2 grants)	Contribution towards a mental health project and a community meal during the Christmas holidays	3,400	People living with mental health problems
Seed of Hope (3 grants)	Developing food growing activities and increasing mental health recovery through nature-based support	11,388	People living with mental health problems
Shared Earth Learning Co-op (2 grants)	Improving a community kitchen and growing space and outdoor adult wellbeing sessions in Frome	5,768	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Somerset Art Works	Arts and craft activities for people who are homeless in Taunton	4,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Somerset Arts Well	Singing sessions for people with dementia in Mendip	3,500	Older people
Somerset Youth Theatre CIC (2 grants)	Business development and core running costs for community youth theatre group	9,500	Children and young people
Somewhere House Somerset (2 grants)	Counselling for vulnerable people and subsidised services for low income communities	121,000	People living with mental health problems
St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury (4 grants)	Providing a warm space and activities for Ukrainian families and local people	4,750	People living in poverty/disadvantage
St Margaret's Hospice	Care for people with life-limiting illnesses in Somerset	5,000	People living with a long-term health or life-limiting condition
St Mary's Church, Ilminster	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community hub	2,000	People living with mental health problems
Sweet Track Counselling Agency CIC	Subsidised counselling service in Glastonbury	7,320	People living with mental health problems
Taunton Area Debt Advice	Building the capacity of a specialist debt advice service	5,000	People living with mental health problems
The Equivalent Project (2 grants)	Supporting an equine-assisted therapy service near Frome for women survivors of trauma and domestic abuse	7,500	Victims or survivors of crime/violence/abuse
The Lawrence Centre	Facility improvements for a community centre for older people in Wells	2,000	Older people
The Meeting House Arts Centre (2 grants)	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a cultural centre	3,500	Older people
The Minehead Shed	Installation of windows for the Minehead Community Men's Shed	3,000	Older people
The Old Stores Studio (2 grants)	Providing a warm space to support those experiencing fuel poverty and building community connections in Evercreech	2,800	Older people
The Phoenix Voices (3 grants)	A subsidised community choir for isolated older people in Yeovil	2,497	Older people
The Rubbish Art Project (2 grants)	Contributing towards the overheads of a therapeutic art group in Shepton Mallet	11,000	Older people
The Space	Counselling and group activities for young people in the Cheddar area	5,000	Children and young people
Therapeutic Art Group	Art sessions in Somerton to reduce loneliness and isolation and improve wellbeing	2,750	Older people
Ups and Downs Southwest (3 grants)	Support for families with a child with Down Syndrome	12,560	Children and young people
Wells Community Network (2 grants)	Continuation of care helpline, and new community transport service to support the isolated and elderly	7,000	Older people
Wessex Counselling and Psychotherapy (2 grants)	Counselling for young people and a contribution to a community counselling service in Frome	7,000	Children and young people
West Buckland Friendship Club	Transport for monthly club meetings for 90 seniors	4,200	Older people
Yeovil Opportunity Group (2 grants)	Providing education and specialist support to vulnerable children and families	30,108	Children and young people
Yeovil Shopmobility	Combating isolation among older people and those with disabilities	3,000	Older people
Youth Resource Services (The Rendezvous, Sherborne) Ltd	1-1 Maths and English tutoring for young people in Yeovil	5,000	Children and young people

Improved community facilities

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
@2K Theatre (2 grants)	Contribution towards the rising costs and theatre tours of a community art group	11,050	Older people
Ashill Village Hall Community Centre	Replacing a roof and installing solar panels on a rural community building	2,500	People living in rural areas
Banwell Parish Council	LED lighting refit of a community building	2,500	People living in rural areas

Improved community facilities continued

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Bridgwater Baptist Church (2 grants)	Contribution towards the overheads of a community building and project	225,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Bridgwater Tennis Club	Contribution towards refurbishment costs of a Bridgwater-based Tennis club	15,000	People living with mental health problems
Bridgwater Town Football Club	Significant development of the Fairfax Park football grounds including spaces for community benefit	100,000	People living with mental health problems
Burnham & Highbridge Sea Cadet Unit	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a uniformed youth group	3,000	Children and young people
Burnham Boat Owners Sea Angling Association	Purchasing a beach-boat launching tractor to improve access to the water	28,000	Local residents
Cannington United Reformed Church (3 grants)	Providing a warm space and a contribution towards the costs of a community hub	12,200	Older people
Chard Community Hub (4 grants)	Establishing a local pantry, providing a warm space, and contributing towards the overheads of a community hub	8,948	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Council of Southern Caving Clubs	Barn renovation for cavers' changing space	2,000	Children and young people
Creative Innovation Centre	Creating workshop space in Taunton for arts activities	3,000	Local residents
Frome Cheese and Grain	Improving access to a community arts venue for adults with learning disabilities and autism	5,475	People living with learning disabilities
Green Ilminster	Establishing a 'share & repair' shop to support those on low incomes and reduce waste going to landfill	2,000	Local residents
Hestercombe Gardens	Improving the infrastructure of a heritage site near Taunton for adults with learning disabilities	10,000	People living with learning disabilities
Hinton St George & Locality Rural Community Services	Reducing long-term debt and improving the sustainability of a community shop	30,900	Older people
Kingsdon Centre	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community cafe	4,000	Older people
Kingston St Mary Playing Field Management Committee	Repainting a community pavilion and buying new tables, chairs and benches	2,500	People living in rural areas
Merriott Tithe Barn Committee	Essential repairs to an historic community building	2,500	Children and young people
More Lands Collective	Supporting a Traveller community association in Glastonbury	2,500	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Otterhead Estate Trust (2 grants)	Improving footpaths and fencing and felling trees with ash dieback at a green space in the Blackdown Hills	2,600	Local residents
Parochial Church Council of Coleford (part of East Mendip Trinity)	Roof repairs to a church hall	2,000	Local residents
Pilton Methodist Church	Support for a community cafe and preschool	3,000	Older people
Queen Camel Community Land Trust (2 grants)	Providing a warm space and a contribution towards the overheads of a community hub	7,500	Older people
Sedgemoor Community Partnership	Running costs for community food pantry in Highbridge	2,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Somerset Earth Science Centre	SESC Outdoor Geo trail board and Mendip Rocks Column	2,000	Local residents
St Mary's, Bridgwater (2 grants)	Salary costs for a toddlers group at community church and creating more workspace in a community kitchen	4,000	Local residents
St Peter and St Paul's Church, Bishops Hull (2 grants)	Providing a warm space and creating a new community kitchen	3,500	Older people
St Peter's Community Centre (2 grants)	Providing a warm space and contribution towards the core costs of a community centre	27,250	Older people
Stawell & Sutton Mallet Village Hall (2 grants)	Providing a warm space and contribution towards the core costs of a community building	2,750	Older people
Stogursey and District Victory Hall Committee	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community building	5,000	Older people
Stogursey Youth Club	Running weekly youth club sessions in a rural area	3,000	People living in rural areas
The Blackford Reading Room Trust (2 grants)	Contribution towards the overheads and improvements to a rural community building	3,080	Local residents
The Kingsbury Community Enterprise Ltd	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community shop and cafe	3,000	Older people
The Zone Youth Club	Providing youth work in Burnham-on-Sea	4,140	Children and young people
Wiveliscombe Community Centre	Keyless entry system for expanding community asset	2,250	Local residents
Wivey Cares (2 grants)	Salary costs and a project at a residential home for individuals with a learning disability and complex needs	9,525	Older people
Yeovil Cricket Club	Creating a more inclusive and accessible cricket club	2,000	Children and young people
Yeovil Freewheelers EVS	Contribution towards a new blood bike	5,000	People living with a long-term health or life-limiting condition

Improved physical health and wellbeing

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
All Saints' Church, Dulverton	Creating a community gardening and cookery project for school pupils and families	5,000	Children and young people
ARC (formerly Taunton Association for the Homeless) – 2 grants	Investing in a social enterprise that provides employment opportunities to people who have been homeless	22,516	People living in poverty/disadvantage
BIBIC	Subsidising the cost of assessment and therapy for children with developmental disabilities	5,000	Children and young people
Burnham and Weston Energy CIC	Providing advice and practical support to combat fuel poverty among low-income older person households	100,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Butleigh Playing Fields Association	Contribution towards a second-hand sit-on lawnmower	3,000	Children and young people
CDST Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Compass Disability)	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community hydrotherapy pool in Taunton	2,126	Older people
Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership	Improving a camp kitchen and providing healthy meals to young adults with learning disabilities and autism in Baltonsborough	5,000	People living with mental health problems
Cheddar Hockey Club	Bridge the gap between junior and senior hockey in Cheddar, providing kit, which can be a barrier to play	2,200	Children and young people
Climate Alliance CIC	Digital promotion of climate change adaption solutions	5,000	Local residents
DoFE Somerset Committee	New equipment to support disadvantaged young people to take part in activities	4,000	Children and young people
Dulverton Food Bank	Providing urgent food parcels to those in extreme need in rural west Somerset	5,000	Children and young people
Foodage4thought	Cooking workshops to support adults in Frome to eat well for less	2,500	Children and young people
Frome Community Bike Project	Installing solar panels to increase project resilience	2,500	Older people
Green Door Families	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a hot meal service in Street	6,250	Older people
Henhayes Centre	Core costs of running a day centre for older people in Crewkerne	4,000	Older people
Langport Church Community Trust (3 grants)	Providing a warm space and a meal at a community hub	2,150	Older people
Lord's Larder Yeovil Foodbank	Contributing to the core running costs of a local foodbank	2,000	Local residents
Love Glastonbury	Running a community fridge and food pantry	3,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Middlroom Wood CIC	Helping to create a new open-air heritage centre in the Blackdown Hills	2,000	People living in rural areas
Mind in Somerset	Running community growing, cooking and healthy eating activities in Yeovil	5,000	People living with mental health problems
Minehead Bowling Club	Train volunteers, buy bowls and kit, and pay towards energy costs	2,500	Children and young people
Somerset Parent Carer Forum	Supporting families with children with special educational needs and disabilities	5,000	People living with mental health problems
St George's Church, Wilton (2 grants)	Mobile community café and providing a warm space	4,000	Older people
Taunton Stroke Club	Core costs of community support group		Older people
The Good Heart Frome (2 grants)	Providing a warm space to support those experiencing fuel poverty	4,500	Older people
The Minehead Hope Centre	Support people experiencing homelessness in Minehead	5,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
The Volunteer Network	Running growing and cooking sessions for low income families in Glastonbury	5,000	Local residents
Transition Town Wellington	Creating a herb garden, planting trees and running a community picnic	4,924	Local residents
Wellington Community Food	Establishing a community growing project for a veg box scheme	10,000	Local residents
Wells Vineyard (2 grants)	Core costs of running a community foodbank and contribution towards overheads	7,500	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Westbury-sub-Mendip Community Shop and Post Office	Improvements to a community garden	2,500	Children and young people

Increased conservation of local natural spaces and heritage

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
A Greener Langford Budville	Contribution towards a new woodland to improve local biodiversity	2,290	People living in rural areas
Climate Action Taunton	Establishing a 'Climate Community Hub' in response to the climate emergency	2,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Frome Field 2 Fork CIC (2 grants)	Installing rainwater harvesting system and running a community market garden and workshop	6,500	Local residents
Home Furniture Services Trust Ltd (2 grants)	Expanding a furniture recycling scheme around Somerset	3,500	People living in poverty/disadvantage

Increased organisational capacity

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
Citizens Advice Mendip (6 grants)	Increasing capacity to provide advisory and financial services to vulnerable people	27,110	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Contains Art	Developing a new service to offer social prescribing in Watchet	5,000	People living with a long-term health or life-limiting condition
Make the Sunshine CIC	Outreach and engagement to grow an arts offer in Shepton Mallet	10,560	Older people
Neroche Woodlanders Ltd	Improving financial and fundraising processes and staff training	10,126	Local residents
Paddington Farm Trust	Staff and volunteer training for a community farm near Glastonbury	10,031	People living with mental health problems
Red Brick Building (2 grants)	Supporting a community building in Glastonbury	14,998	Local residents
Root Connections (3 grants)	Supporting new services at a rural social enterprise	27,500	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Somerset Film and Video (2 grants)	Building capacity to respond to the needs of adults with learning disabilities and autism	10,860	Local residents
Somerton Rugby Football Club	Capital investment in ground maintenance and improvements	7,500	Children and young people
South Cadbury Village Hall	New signage, printer and supplies for a community building	7,227	Local residents
South Chard Church (The HUB)	Salary for a community worker to undertake various activities in the town	15,000	People living in poverty/disadvantage
Spark Somerset (3 grants)	Developing the Somerset Youth Work Alliance and researching the impacts of Covid-19	27,500	Children and young people
The Salvation Army, Street	Capital investment to purchase a van to distribute food surplus	8,500	Children and young people
We Hear You (2 grants)	Contribution towards the overheads of a service for people living with cancer	16,584	People living with a long-term health or life-limiting condition
Westfield United Reformed Church (3 grants)	Contribution towards the overheads of a community centre and meals	22,301	Older people
Wincanton Recreational Trust	Capital investment in audio visual equipment, and volunteer development	10,000	Local residents

Increased organisational sustainability

Foundation grants over £2,000	Project description	£ Value	Primary beneficiary
ARK at Egwood (3 grants)	Training and supporting volunteers and contributing to increased overheads	12,826	People living with mental health problems
Art Care Education (2 grants)	An annual programme of exhibitions, events and a retail space in gallery in Somerton	7,800	People living with mental health problems
Brent Knoll Community Shop Limited	Developing a community-run enterprise	7,500	People living in rural areas
Headway Somerset (2 grants)	Helping the charity meet the needs of people with acquired brain injury in the county	22,165	People living with a long-term health or life-limiting condition
Langport Area CIO	Contribution towards the increased overheads of several community buildings	3,000	Children and young people
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross	Capital investment to rebuild a sports pavilion	15,000	Children and young people
St John the Baptist, Wellington	Contribution towards the increased overheads of a community cafe	2,306	People living with mental health problems
State of Trust	Developing an arts and wellbeing workshop programme for young people	8,960	Children and young people
The Hub Yeovil Community Support Charity	Business development at a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities	7,500	People living with physical or sensory disabilities
Towards Tomorrow Together (2 grants)	Support for a venue in Bridgwater for people affected by child bereavement	15,400	Children and young people
Wellington Community Counselling CIC	Support for group sessions and individual counselling for adults with learning disabilities and autism	25,400	People living with mental health problems

In addition:

269 grants under £2,000 were awarded to groups, totalling **£292,863**

184 grants were awarded to individuals, totalling **£143,637**

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Barry Cawston



The Somerset Fund

Thanks to Somerset 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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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

Chris Bishop

Edward Bayntun-Coward

Kate Turner

Kevin Whitmarsh

Lady Louise Patten

Lucy and James Nelson

Martin Stanley

Maureen Whitmore

Nicholas and Diana Barber

Nigel Clark

Peter Wyman

Philip Gibbs

Richard Lloyd

Stephen Dawson

Tim Walker

Venetia Hoare & Hamish Leng

Core Funders

We're particularly grateful to the following organisations, who provide vital funding to support our core work alongside many other wonderful Friends of the Foundation.

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Thank you!



A huge thank you to every single one of our supporters.

We can only give vital funding to hundreds of life-changing small charities across Somerset thanks to your generosity.

And a very big thank you to our volunteer Trustees and panel members who generously lend their time and expertise to support our work.



“
We're honoured to support something that does so much good within the local community!
”

Fundholder

Our vision, mission and values

Our Vision

Our vision for Somerset is a place with strong communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Our Mission

We help passionate people in Somerset change the world on their doorstep by funding local causes and inspiring local giving and philanthropy.

Our Values

We're here for everyone: We embed diverse perspectives throughout everything we do and welcome and value the uniqueness in everyone

We drive equity: We work to better understand the needs, challenges, dreams and aspirations of historically underfunded communities and take positive action to redress the balance

We act with integrity: We're transparent about how and why we do things and always do the best we can

We lead with kindness: We're supportive, compassionate and respectful to each other and everyone we serve

We strive to be better: We seek and reflect on feedback and insight, foster collaboration, and share our learnings to get better results.



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